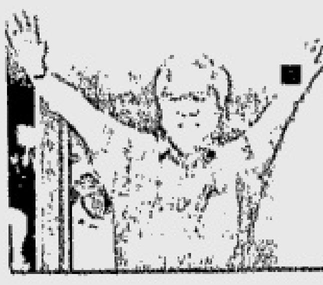


■ ACROSS / A16

Maliksi snubs peace talks with Remulla

■ BUSINESS / B1

Jollibee buys Red Ribbon for P1.7B

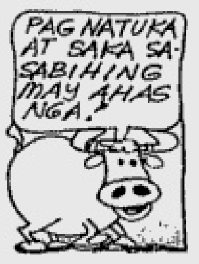
■ WORLD / A10

US State Dept. denounces Pat Robertson's call to kill Venezuelan president

■ METRO / A18

DENR on mall watch for endangered birds for sale

Ermita: Palace a 'garden of Eden,' not a 'snake pit'


PAG NATUKA AT SAKA SASABIHING MAY AHAS NGA!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THIS "Little President" was sent to the "snake pit," but in his 12 months on the job he has found it a "garden of Eden."

"I was wondering why

ERMITA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

New AFP chief says graft complaint a 'poison letter'

By Dona Pazzibugan and Fe Zamora

LT. GEN. Generoso Senga, the newly installed Armed Forces chief of staff, has dismissed as nothing more than an anonymously signed "poison letter"

NEW AFP / A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, August 25, 2005 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 258 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Cruz witness shows Bingo Combo papers

₱931M a day for interest payments

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GOVERNMENT will set aside daily P931 million in interest payments under the proposed budget for 2006 that Malacañang submitted to the House of Representatives yesterday, according to the chair of the House appropriations committee.

That's equivalent to about P11 a day for each Filipino, much of it to be borrowed by the government.

"Perennial spending topnotcher debt service maintains its rank in next year's proposed national budget, cornering P340 billion, or one-third of the P1.05-trillion outlay Malacañang wants Congress to approve," said committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. of Camarines Sur.

The proposed interest payments are P38.3 billion bigger than this year's P301.7 billion.

Andaya said real debt service allocation would jump to P721.7 billion (equivalent to P8,306 a year for every Filipino) if the proposed budget for principal amortization of P381 billion was included in the General Appropriations Act.

P931M/ A6

Road fund is totally cancelled

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has decided to "totally cancel" the P2.2 billion in Road Users' Tax (RUT) fund allocation to members of the House of Representatives to avoid insinuations that it was being used to kill the impeachment complaint against her, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

The P2.2 billion was part of the P5.1 billion that the Road Board had approved for preventive road maintenance this year.

De Venecia said the President instructed Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane and Budget Secretary Romulo Neri to cancel the entire fund allocation.

"She will not only suspend,

ROAD/ A5

EGGING FOR A CELEBRATION, the townsfolk of Minalin, Pampanga, fry 4,000 eggs in a charcoal-heated aluminum pan right in front of their centuries-old brick church to signal its revival as Luzon's premier egg producer 14 years after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption wreaked havoc on its poultry business. It also marks the town's 391st foundation day.

PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Fried eggs, sunny side up for Pampanga town

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MINALIN, Pampanga—In a bid to reclaim this town's status as Luzon's premier egg producer 14 years after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions, residents fried 4,000 eggs on a 20-foot-wide charcoal-heated aluminum pan at the church grounds on Wednesday.

Cooked sunny side up, the eggs and 2,000 boiled ones were served with bread and noodles for a thanksgiving breakfast, in time for the celebration of the 391st founding day of the parish and the town.

The life-size image of Santa Monica, the town's patron saint, graced the cheerful gathering of some 10,000 people who as-

FRIED EGGS/ A6

HK graft-buster says RP not mission impossible

TONY KWOK: What about Nigeria?

LEANING back in his swivel chair, Tony Kwok Wan-Mai leans forward and almost in a whisper says: "So, some people think fighting corruption in the Philippines is like being handed a poisoned chalice, do they? Well, I guess they haven't been to Nigeria then."

His dry sense of humor breaks the ice and he begins to relax, sipping Chinese tea. With eyeglasses, casually dressed in an open-neck shirt and sports jacket, he looks more like an academic than one of Asia's leading crime fighters. But that's the way the 58-year-old former deputy commissioner and head of operations for Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) likes it.

Appointed in May by President Macapagal-Arroyo to be her special adviser on anticorruption, Kwok has no illusion about the job ahead of him in a country where corruption is viewed as a low-risk, high-return crime.

US investment bank Morgan Stanley calculated that the country had been milked of $204 billion between 1965 when the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos came to power and institutionalized corruption, and 2001.

Now, corruption has spread to every aspect of life. Most companies put aside 22 percent of the cost of a government project just to pay bribes, according to a survey of 700 managers by the Social Weather Stations.

When Ms Arroyo appointed Kwok, she voiced confidence that she could win the antigraft battle within the next three to four years. Ironically, Ms

HK GRAFT-BUSTER/ A6

Palace, Pagcor deny plan

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

THE "LEGALIZED" version of "jueteng" that the Arroyo administration purportedly plans to launch aims to raise at least P80 million daily and will include only mayors and policemen in its payola list.

Former jueteng lord Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor yesterday said these were among the cited highlights of the new game, "Bingo Combo," when it was initially presented to selected gambling operators early this year.

Mayor, who has testified at the Senate inquiry into jueteng, said he received an offer in January to operate the new game in Bicol. He said he was tapped by a "close friend," a jueteng lord in Isabela, because of his extensive experience in the illegal numbers racket.

Mayor furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a seven-page document bearing the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) letterhead and titled "Procedural Guidelines for Bingo Combo Betting Station Operators."

"This proves that the government is planning to introduce Bingo Combo as a legalized form of jueteng but with the same dubious intentions," he said in Filipino.

But Edward King, Pagcor spokesperson, denied that the agency would launch Bingo Combo after jueteng is phased out by Sept. 15.

"We have no plans to implement what you call Bingo Combo. There's no such program. We're not going to get involved in something that will replace jueteng,"

CRUZ/ A8

'Independent' Enrile joins Senate majority

By TJ Burgonio

INDEPENDENT Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday caused a stir when he confirmed that he had entered into a "working coalition" with the 14-member majority in the Senate.

Senate President Franklin Drilon welcomed Enrile's decision to forge a coalition with the majority, virtually confirming the senator's announcement.

"I welcome Senator Enrile to the Senate majority. His decision will certainly boost the indepen-

INDEPENDENT/ A8

Proimpeachment lawmaker withdraws signature

By Philip C. Tubeza

A LAWMAKER who was among the first to expose an alleged Malacañang bribery attempt yesterday withdrew his support for President Macapagal-Arroyo's impeachment.

Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay withdrew his signature from the complaint a month after he revealed that administration congressmen attempted to bribe him to prevent him from signing the impeachment complaint.

Magsaysay, a nephew of the late President Ramon Magsaysay and grandson of the late colorful politician Sen. Amang Rodriguez who represents the Association of Volunteer Educators, said he suffered sleepless nights since he signed the complaint two weeks ago.

Opposition lawmakers said that Magsaysay's withdrawal might have been timed to blunt any momentum that would result from the new signatories. They said Magsaysay had been talking for the last few weeks about "pressure from Malacañang."

Magsaysay withdrew his endorsement a day after four of Ms Arroyo's allies joined the opposition.

"He informed us about his decision and I respect that,"

PROIMPEACHMENT/ A8

FRESH FACES in the ranks of proimpeachment congressmen, Representatives Robert Jaworski Jr. (extreme right) and Ace Barbers mix it up with opposition Representatives Augusto Bacullo and Ronnie Zamora.

LYN RILLON

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rianshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/25/05

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2005

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Erap slams prosecutor's threat

By Nelson F. Flores

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada yesterday accused Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio of trying to influence the magistrates of the Sandiganbayan Special Division by threatening to resign should he be freed by the antigraft court on recognizance.

In a statement, Estrada said Vila-Ignacio's threat "underscores his continuing hostility towards me."

He added that the release he is asking for, either through bail or recognizance, is within the bounds of the law and jurisprudence, and this matter is addressed to the sound discretion of the Special Division.

Estrada added that the court must have a free hand in resolving his petition for bail and not allow itself to be intimidated by Villa-Ignacio's statement.

Laughing stock

Earlier, Villa-Ignacio said he would resign should the Sandiganbayan Special Division order the release of Estrada on recognizance for that would make the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman a laughing stock.

He explained that he could resign as lead prosecutor in Estrada's plunder and perjury cases and devote himself to other serious cases or he could just quit and become a "journalist" so he could write about the judiciary.

Villa-Ignacio warned that the former president's release on recognizance would set a precedent.

"What are we going to do then with Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia or other personalities facing serious offenses? Are we also going to release them on recognizance?" Villa-Ignacio asked.

Villa-Ignacio also warned that Estrada's release on recognizance would lead to the complete loss of trust of the people on the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman.

"*Sino pa ang maniniwala sa amin*? (Who would still believe us?)" Villa-Ignacio posed the question, adding that Estrada's release would also put to naught the Ombudsman's antigraft campaign.

'We'll fight up to SC'

Asked what he will do if the Sandiganbayan Special Division allows Estrada to post bail, he said bail is a different thing but release on recognizance is a different matter.

"We will fight his motion to bail up to the Supreme Court," Villa-Ignacio said.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor recently disclosed that reconciliation talks between the camps of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Estrada have begun with the latter seeking release from house arrest on recognizance.

Recognizance is the release of an accused without bail to someone of high moral standing in the community.

Estrada confirmed talking to Defensor about his possible release on recognizance, but said this was based on the merits of his plunder case, not reconciliation.

Estrada, who has been in detention since 2001, has consistently maintained that the charges against him were politically motivated.

LETTING OFF STEAM
President Macapagal-Arroyo looks at the steam from the 20-megawatt Nasulo Geothermal Project during her inspection of the project Wednesday in Valencia, Negros Oriental, some 35 kilometers from Dumaguete City. Also in photo are (from left) Valencia Mayor Rodolfo Gonzales Jr., Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, a former Negros Oriental congressman. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

DOLE: No pay cut for 4-day work week

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday told private companies adopting four-day work weeks to ensure that their employees would continue to receive the same wages and benefits.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas made the reminder even as the government encouraged employers to adopt, on a voluntary basis, a compressed work week scheme to conserve energy and fend off the adverse effects of the soaring oil prices.

Sto. Tomas said the scheme may be adopted in accordance with labor laws.

Police to return papers seized in botched raid

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE will return today the election returns and other election-related documents seized during a botched raid on an opposition safehouse in San Mateo, Rizal last week, a ranking police officer said.

Supt. Wilben Mayor, which led the raiding team, said the turnover of the documents will be held in Makati City, in a place owned by opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda.

"We have already talked to a lawyer of Sen. Loren Legarda," said Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

"We will turn them over to them. The schedule is tomorrow (Thursday)," he said.

The election returns and other documents were seized by a combined team from the police and military from a house being rented by Segundo Tabayoyong, a fraud expert who had been studying the seized election returns.

Legarda's counsel, Demaree Raval, confirmed the scheduled turnover to the INQUIRER.

"Yes, Mayor called yesterday. We agreed to have the turnover at 1 p.m. in my office tomorrow," he said. Mayor is the chief of the intelligence and investigation division of CIDG-NCR.

In earlier interviews, Dolina had said that the election documents were intact and maintained that the police did not "raid" the house. Its owner had invited them in, and, upon seeing the election documents, asked the police to take them. Hence, the police did not need a search warrant to get inside.

In a letter to Secretary Reyes, Agripino Baybay, another counsel of Legarda, requested the immediate return of the seized documents as well as other belongings of Tabayoyong.

The letter explicitly stated why Legarda is entitled to keep those documents.

"(Legarda) is the protestant in a case before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal," it said.

Tabayoyong, Legarda's primary witness in the electoral protest, had claimed that the election documents he had scrutinized would prove that his client was cheated of victory in the 2004 vice presidential race.

Yesterday, CIDG head Chief Supt. Ricardo Dapat wrote to Atty. Baybay saying the police will "gladly turn over" the documents to Ms Legarda.

"In accordance with the pronouncements of Secretary Reyes, we will gladly turn over these documents and personal effects to the person or persons claiming ownership," Dapat added.

The police initially planned to turn them over to the Commission on Elections. But San Mateo election officer Pancho Rivera, who at first feared that the seized ERs were from town, said his office did not want the documents.

"We have our own copy, it's not ours," he said.

Rivera, a Comelec employee for 18 years, said the seized documents rightfully belonged to the dominant minority party of the 2004 elections, the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

He and two other officials who had checked the documents said they were "authentic."

Last week, Rep. Francis Escudero chided the police for not immediately conducting an inventory of the election returns.

The police had invited him to be present for an inventory on Monday, but the congressman snubbed the invitation.

"I believe that an appropriate inventory should have been done immediately after the seizure of the documents and not one week later," Escudero said. "Other than the legitimacy of how they were seized, I believe the documents were handled inappropriately and contrary to what is provided for under the law."

Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the Committee on Justice currently hearing impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, had also directed the CIDG to "ensure the safety and integrity of said documents and materials for submission to the Committee when so required."

No budget for Charter change

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday submitted to Congress a P1.05-trillion proposed national budget for next year but curiously omitted an allocation for its urgent bid to amend the Constitution.

Both Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Budget Secretary Romulo Neri were quick to explain that a budget for Charter change was not necessary because Congress could use its own resources to pursue the undertaking.

But this is if Congress decides to convene itself into a constituent assembly to tackle amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

"With Congress constituting itself as a constituent assembly, then indeed the government doesn't have to allocate a big amount of funds," Ermita said at his weekly news briefing.

Neri said Congress, which regularly holds sessions in the afternoon, for instance, would only hold morning sessions for the Charter amendments and if it were to shell out money for this, it would have to do so in paying for consultants.

"I think it can be done within the same budget of Congress," he said.

Under the proposed 2006 budget, Congress will get P4.56 billion.

Neri said special appropriations would be needed should Congress decide to call a constitutional convention to revise the Charter.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has been fervently pushing for Charter change, has expressed preference for a constituent assembly.

The President recently created a 50-member consultative commission to come up with proposed amendments to the Charter to make Congress' job easier.

The consultative commission will start working on Sept. 15 and is scheduled to complete its job by the end of the year.

On the occasion of its
11th Anniversary
the
Technical Education and
Skills Development Authority
announces the launching of its
Jobs-Directed Scholarship Program

and invites public and private schools, training centers, companies, non-government organizations and people's organizations registered with any appropriate government agency to participate in the program.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank and being implemented by TESDA under its Technical Education and Skills Development (TESD) Project, the Jobs-Directed Scholarship Program aims to:

1. extend financial assistance thru scholarship grant to poor but deserving trainees/students to pursue their technical/vocational education and training and equip them with skills for wage employment, self-employment and/or entrepreneurship;
2. assist qualified TVET providers in the conduct of various TVET course offerings that respond to specific employment requirements within their area

The scholarship covers the following: tuition and other training fees, trainee allowance, assessment and certification fee, book allowance, supplies and materials and basic tool kit for graduates who pass the competency assessment.

The program gives priority to short and long-term courses where there are assured employment to the graduates (either wage or self-employment). The following qualifications/occupations have been declared priority by the TESDA Board:

Priority Sectors	Priority Qualifications
1. Maritime	Deck Seafaring NC II, Engine Seafaring NC II
2. Construction	Carpentry NC II, Masonry NC II, Heavy Equipment Operation NC II, Heavy Equipment Servicing NC II, Plumbing NC II, Building Wiring Installation NC II
3. Heating, Ventilation, Airconditioning & Refrigeration	RAC Servicing NC I, RAC Servicing NC II, Transport RAC Servicing NC II
4. Metals and Engineering	Machining NC II, Welding NC II
5. Automotive and Land Transportation	Auto Servicing NC II, Small Engine Servicing NC II, Auto Body Repairing NC II, Auto Body Painting/Finishing NC II, Auto Engine Rebuilding, Driving NC II
6. Tourism	Cooking, Food and Beverage Service, Housekeeping, Travel Service, Tour Service, Stewarding NC I
7. Footwear	Footwear Making
8. Agriculture and Fishery	Aquaculture, Horticulture, Animal Production
9. Information and Communication Technology	Computer Hardware Servicing, Medical Transcription NC II, Contact Center Service NC II
10. Health and Social Services	Security Service
11. Garments	Tailoring, Dressmaking

Other occupations in the following sectors will also be given priority by TESDA: Decorative Crafts (Ceramics; Gifts, Toys and Housewares; Jewelry), Electronics, Furnitures and Furnishings, Processed Food and Beverages, Logistics Services, Shipbuilding/Ship Repair and Mining. Region/province-specific priority sectors will likewise be considered.

Proposals to be submitted by the proponents will be evaluated by TESDA based on their training delivery plan, quality assurance system and employment plan.

Interested parties may inquire from any TESDA Regional/Provincial/District Office for further details or they may call the TVET Systems Development Office at the following telephone numbers: 817-4427 and 817-1899.

11th Anniversary

"TESDA: Kabalikat sa Kasanayan, Kaagapay sa Kabuhayan"

Fumigation won't work, dengue fighters told

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN FIGHTING the dengue menace, don't fumigate.

The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday discouraged the public from resorting to fumigation, saying it would not eliminate dengue-carrying mosquitoes in the area.

Worse, chief epidemiologist Dr. Eric Tayag said, the measure would only promote complacency among the people and distract them from a better approach to the disease—removing clean and stale water where "aedes aegypti" mosquitoes breed.

While fumigation itself is not hazardous to health, he said it gives people a "false sense of security."

"Fumigation is just a band-aid solution," he told the INQUIRER. "People would think that they have already killed all of the mosquitoes with the smoke. But in fact, they killed only the adult ones. There are still so many eggs waiting to take their place."

Tayag cited Barangay Pag-asa in Quezon City where local officials performed fumigation following a dengue outbreak. He said more people died of the virus after the fumigation.

Tayag urged the public to report to the DOH local officials initiating fumigation. Just yesterday, the INQUIRER saw a man smoking mosquitoes along Cabildo Street in Intramuros, Manila.

As of Aug. 19, dengue has infected 14,738 people and killed 197 of them nationwide.

The second district of Valenzuela was placed on a state of epidemic following the death of three people who were among the 196 infected as of the same period.

The DOH has set up dengue outposts in Quezon City to help decongest hospitals like East Avenue and Philippine Children's Medical Center of patients.

"Express lanes" in emergency rooms of government hospital were also in place to provide tests and assess patients in within two hours.

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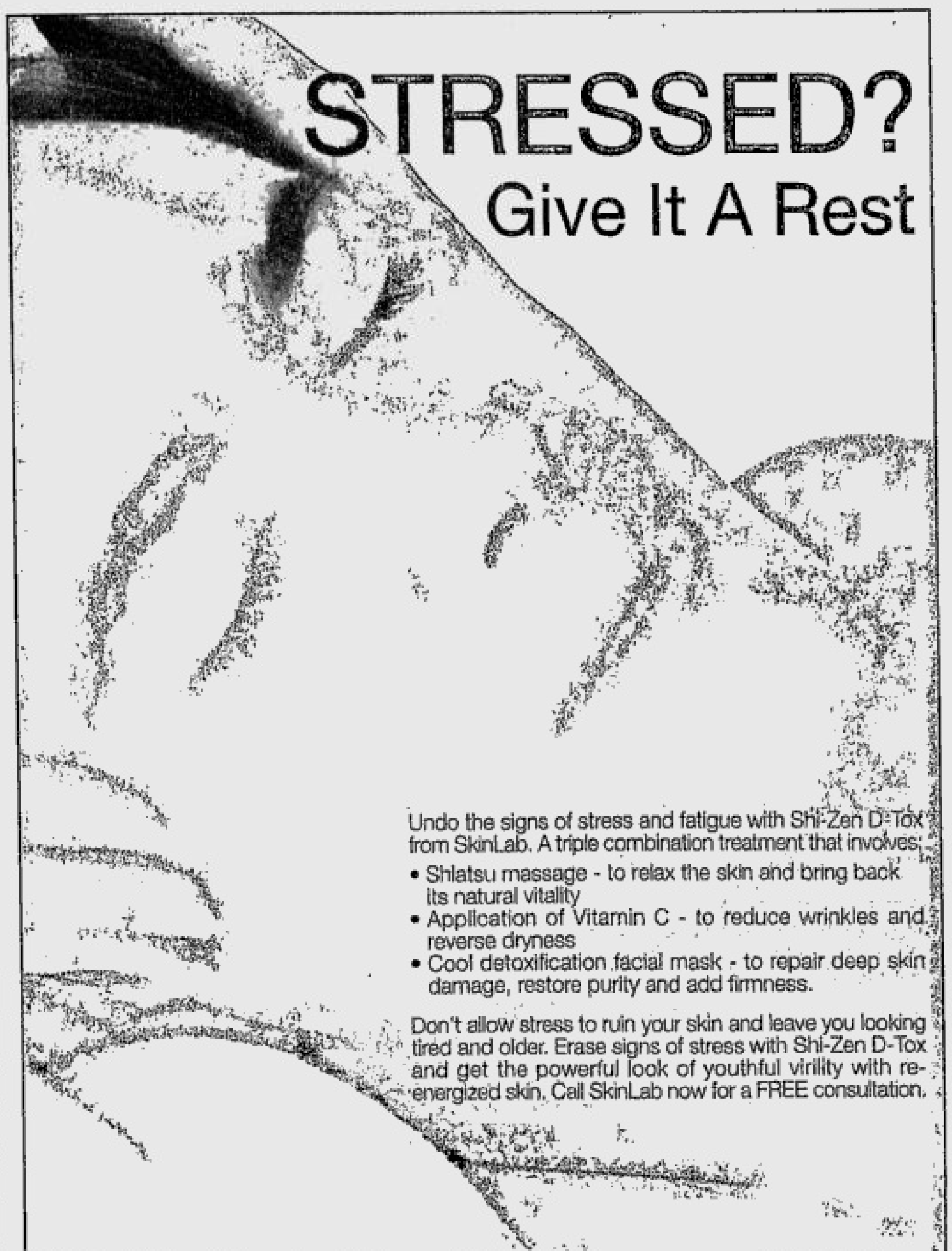

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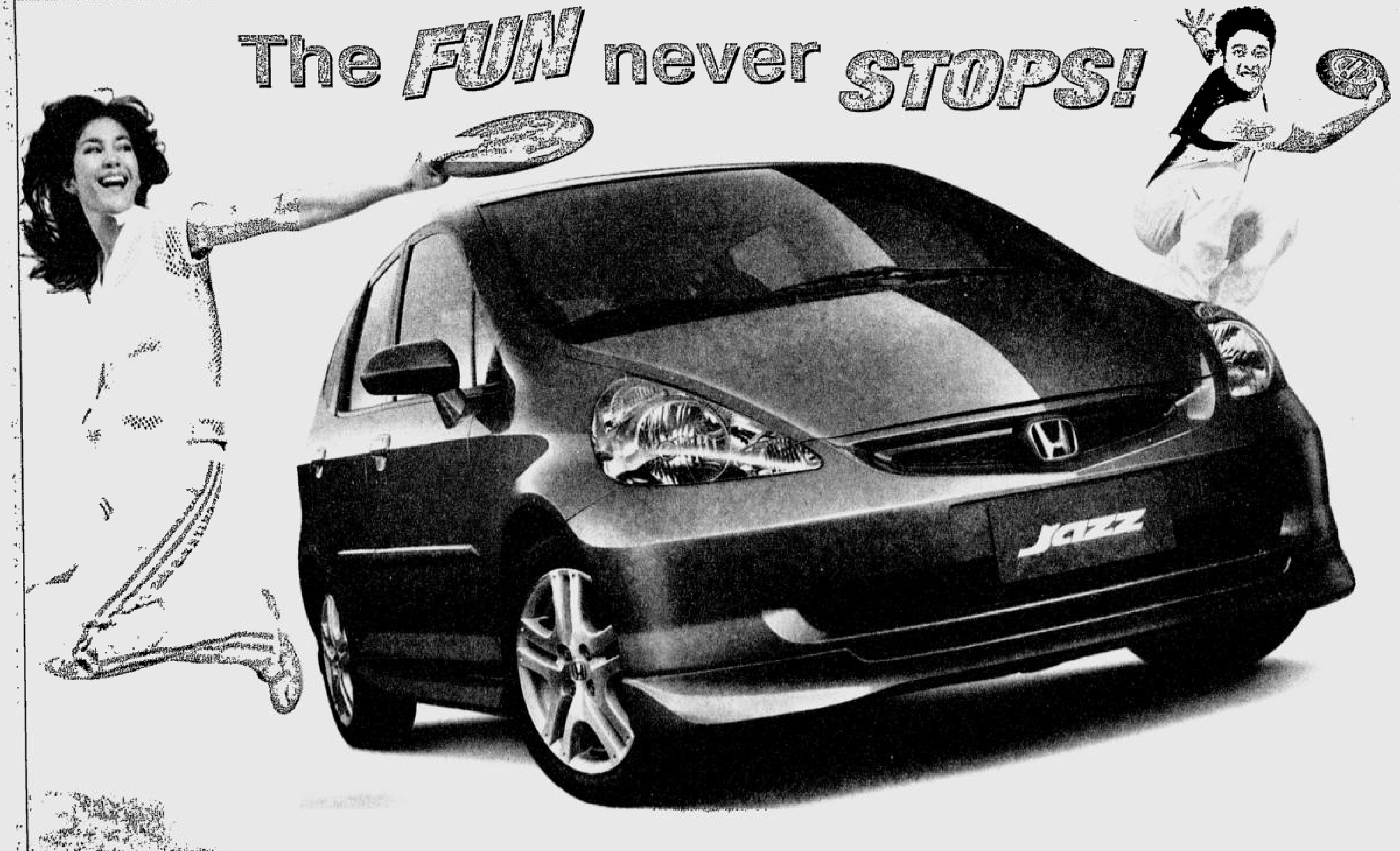

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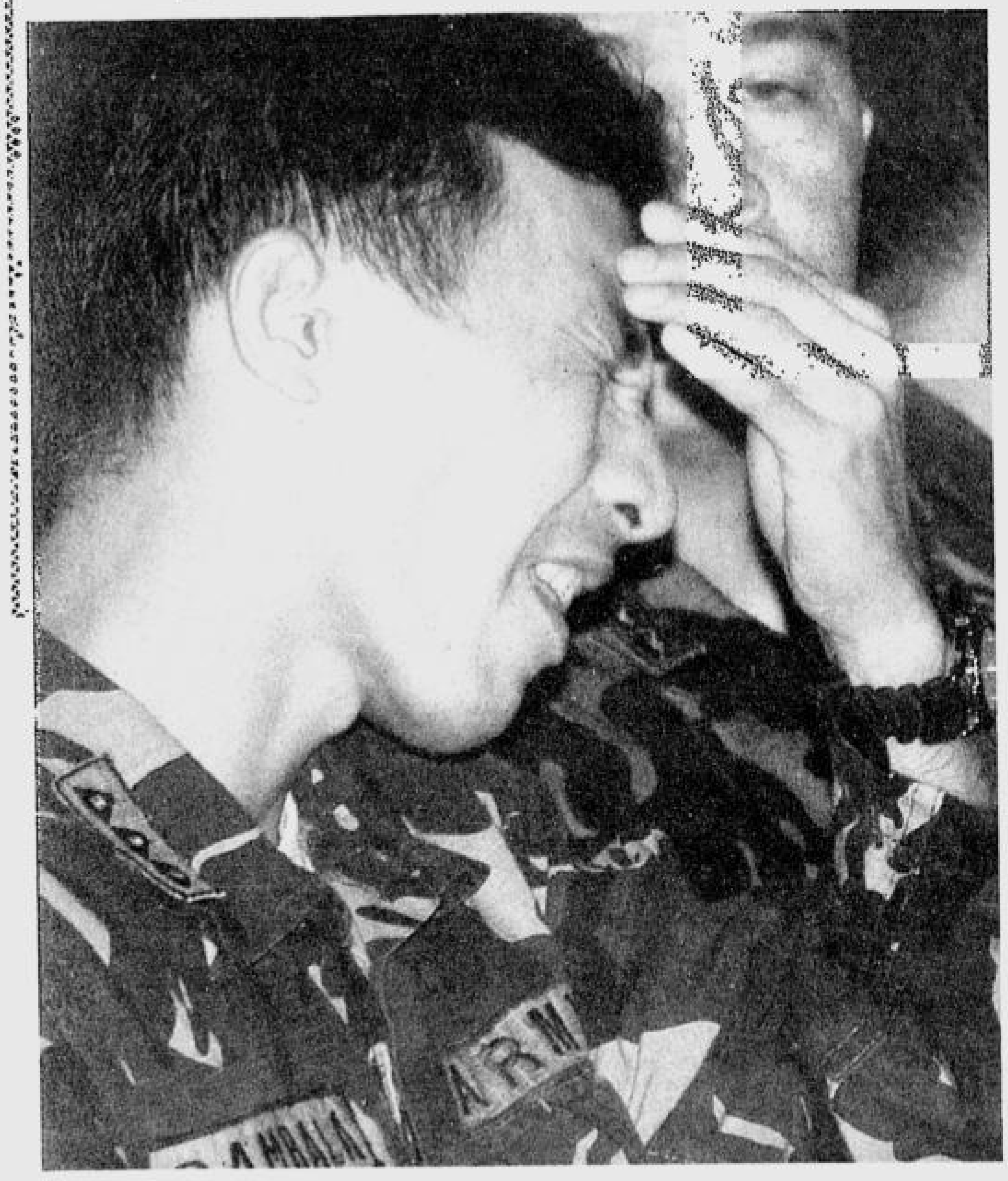
Magdalo lawyers accuse military court of abuse



MUTINEER'S WOE. Capt. Gerardo Gambala , one of the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny, gestures during the special court-martial hearing held at the Camp Aguinaldo Wednesday. JOAN BONDOC

By Dona Pazzibugan

LAWYERS of the 29 junior officers who led the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny told a military court yesterday it committed "grave abuse of discretion" in reversing past rulings which would have led to the dismissal of the case.

The defense team composed of Roel Pulido, Theodore Te and Ed Abaya yesterday appealed the court's Aug. 4 decision to continue the trial.

Pulido insisted that the court should have stuck to its July 26 ruling that the case against the so-called "Magdalo" leaders prescribed at midnight of July 26.

With an audio-visual presentation, the defense panel played portions of the July 26 marathon hearing, wherein the defense argued that the case has prescribed on July 25 while the prosecution insisted it would prescribe on July 26.

Under court martial rules, charges are dismissed if an accused is not arraigned two years after the alleged offense.

"It has (also) been ruled that there's been no arraignment as of July 26. The court can't reverse itself anymore," Pulido said.

When the court adjourned after midnight of July 26, it said only Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, among the 29 officers, have been arraigned.

In the next hearing on Aug. 1, military prosecutors appealed the rulings made on July 27.

Lead Trial Judge Advocate Col. Julius Magno insisted that all 29 Magdalo officers were considered arraigned.

Co-prosecutor Col. Pedro Davila also argued the prescription clock stopped in November 2004 when charges against the mutiny leaders were filed.

Pulido protested that the TJA panel can no longer change the position it had taken that the case would prescribe on July 26.

"Common sense dictates (the TJA panel) can't do that. It is not only unfair but also against the law," he said.

Pulido added the court should not have allowed the prosecution panel's appeal.

On Aug. 4, the court martial presided over by Air Force Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr. ruled that all 29 officers have been arraigned anyway on July 13, when the charges were read in open court. The accused, however, were not individually asked for their pleas.

4 state university execs fired

By Nelson F. Flores

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo fired four officials of the government-run Batangas State University for dishonesty and grave misconduct.

Fired from their post were BSU President Ernesto de Chavez, a known protege of former justice secretary Hernani Perez, Vice President for Academic Affairs Rolando Lontoc Sr., Information and Technology Research and Development Center director Rolando Lontoc Jr. and Vice President Porfirio Ligaya.

Aside from firing the four BSU officials, Marcelo also forfeited their retirement benefits.

In a 24-page supplemental resolution, Marcelo said he gave due course to the complaint of Nora Magnaye who exposed that graduating students for the school year 2000-2001 have been forced to rent caps and gowns from a company owned by De Chavez.

Marcelo also gave weight to the testimony of Bebette Carmela Bisa, a BSU faculty member, who divulged that they were "instructed by the administration not to procure caps and gowns from other sources."

It was also discovered that the university officials collected P550 internet fee from students even if the collection was not sanctioned by either the education department or the BSU Board of Regents.

"When the unlawfully took, appropriated and misappropriated funds belonging to both students and the government, they betrayed their disposition to defraud, deceive, betray and cheat," the Ombudsman ruled.

Magnaye further told the Ombudsman that the university collected "compulsory" graduation fees that Ombudsman investigators discovered were "never deposited in a government bank" for the university account, and worse, the account had a P92,140 shortfall.

"Obviously, the fraudulent scheme perpetrated by them caused damage to the students who paid them," Marcelo said.

FBI won't examine 'Garci' tapes

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has turned down the request of Congress to have the controversial wiretapped "Hello Garci" tapes examined and authenticated at their laboratory.

In a letter to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Reynaldo Wycoco, US Embassy Legal Attache Stephen Cutler said "it is the policy of the FBI laboratory to decline examination of materials that have been the subject of previous examination by other laboratories and scientists."

"We understand that the tapes, on which an examination is requested, have already been examined by other laboratories," Cutler said in his Aug. 19 letter.

NBI Interpol chief lawyer Ricardo Diaz said Cutler was referring to past declarations by Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Sen. Francisco Tatad that they had the tapes examined by experts in Australia and New Jersey, respectively.

Diaz said House committee on public order and safety chair Amado Espino Jr. wrote the NBI last Aug. 16, asking the bureau to assist them in requesting the FBI to authenticate the alleged wiretapped compact discs and audio cassettes.

"As the alleged wiretapped tapes are at the heart of the inquiry and several hearings, the Committees are now in a position to initiate formal moves to determine their authenticity," Espino said in his letter to the NBI.

Diaz described the FBI as "the leading forensic expert in the world."

Diaz said they are now contacting the United Kingdom Metropolitan Police to help in the authentication of the controversial tapes.

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Contractor may include RP gov't in HK suit

HONG-KONG – A Hong Kong court has been told of plans to include the Philippine government as a defendant in a civil claim for damages filed by a Filipino contractor against the Philippine consul general in Hong Kong.

Corazon Belmonte-Jover, and three others were sued for the alleged wrongful termination of the HK$1.5 million (P10.5 million) contract for the renovation of her official residence by the complainant, Roland Ilan of Makro Designs Consultants.

In court Monday, lawyer Robert Tibbo said Ilan had been advised by his counsel to ask the court's permission to add the Philippine government as the 5th defendant in the case.

This was after Jover and her three co-defendants, who all signed the termination of the renovation contract, invoked diplomatic immunity in the case filed by Ilan. They claimed to have acted as agents of the Philippine government when they revoked the renovation agreement.

If the plan goes ahead, it will be the first time that a foreign government will be made party to case filed in a Hong Kong court.

Told of Ilan's legal move, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque cited a constitutional provision granting the Philippine state immunity from suit.

Article 16 of the Constitution's General Provision says that "the State cannot be sued without its consent," he said.

Asuque also said the DFA the agency will first ask Jover for a status report on the case before issuing further comment.

Tibbo asked the court to adjourn the case for between two and two-and-a-half months to allow Ilan and his lawyers to make the necessary preparations for the amendment. That would include going through the complicated process of serving summons in a foreign jurisdiction.

But the judge, S.T. Poon, who heard the application, said he wanted to ensure that there was no unreasonable delay in the case.

But the judge, S.T. Poon, who heard the application, said he wanted to ensure that there was no unreasonable delay in the case.

He ordered Ilan to respond within 28 days to the summons issued by the defendants seeking a dismissal of the case on the ground of diplomatic immunity. Jover and her fellow defendants will then have 21 days to file a reply.

Ilan is claiming HK$479,313 (P3.35 million) plus costs, over the alleged wrongful termination of his services as contractor for the consul general's official residence.

The contract was signed by Jover and Ilan on June 24 last year, and the renovation was supposed to be finished within three months. But the work was not completed on time, and both parties blamed each other for the delay.

Acting on complaints from Ilan, a top-level delegation from the Department of Foreign Affairs came to Hong Kong to broker a compromise agreement between the parties. The second contract was signed by Ilan on one side, and Jover and three of her staff on the other.

But within days, the defendants terminated the contract, citing alleged gross violations by Ilan.

Meanwhile, the Philippine consulate general in Hong Kong also faces the threat of being sued in court by four people targeted by two hate emails which have been traced back to the consulate's computer network.

The complainants include labor attaché Bernardino Julve and a former labor staffer, who had reportedly been at odds with officers from the DFA side of the consulate. The other complainants are the publisher and editor of a Filipino community newspaper, The Sun.

A letter-complaint over the emails was sent by the four to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo last month, who has yet to respond.

The four say they are now consulting a lawyer on the possibility of filing a case for defamation against the consulate, after Jover ignored a demand for an apology.

GMA to visit Saudi on way to NY

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will hold talks with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah next month to seek "affordable" oil, before she flies to New York for U.N. meetings, officials said yesterday.

During her Sept. 11-12 visit to Saudi Arabia, Ms Arroyo also will discuss the welfare of hundreds of thousands of Filipino workers in the kingdom and seek support for the Philippines' bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, officials said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Arroyo will appeal to oil-producing countries "to make oil available to the Philippines and other countries similar to the Philippines at a price that is affordable, and not continuously increasing."

The Philippines imports nearly all its petroleum, and Ms Arroyo has ordered energy conservation in view of rapidly increasing global oil prices.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said Arroyo will cite cases of abuse of Filipino domestic helpers in Saudi Arabia in her talks with Saudi officials.

Bunye said Manila was satisfied by the creation of a special Saudi department that will look into cases of alleged abuse against foreign maids.

The Philippines has been seeking observer status in the OIC, the world's biggest Muslim grouping, to help resolve the Muslim separatist rebellion in the southern part of the country.

She will attend the World Summit and the U.N. General Assembly, foreign affairs spokesman Gilbert Asuque said. Filipino diplomats have proposed a summit of member-states of the Security Council to be chaired by Ms Arroyo.

The Philippines, which became a member of the Security Council in January 2004, assumes the rotating presidency for the second time next month. AP

Road fund is totally cancelled

From page A1

freeze, or put on hold the road users' tax fund of P2.2 billion but to totally cancel it," the Speaker said.

"This was the instruction of the President to Secretary Jun Ebdane and Secretary of Budget Bobby Neri so that no one can say that somebody was (paid) to help the President in the impeachment," he added.

Proimpeachment members of the House claimed that they were given smaller allocation than members of the ruling coalition.

But members of the administration party Lakas-CMD said they were getting a smaller slice of the pie than their counterparts belonging to Kampi, Ms Arroyo's political party. The "lopsided" RUT releases are said to be threatening to split Ms Arroyo's allies in the House.

After rainy season

De Venecia said the funds would be "remobilized" only after the rainy season was over.

"(I)f we use it now, it will go to waste. It will be washed away by the typhoons, by the floods, and many will say that it just went to corruption and the funds were wasted," he said.

"So the President took a strong courageous political step to cancel the road users' tax fund," the Speaker said.

Road Board Executive Director Rodolfo Puno called statements linking the use of the funds to kill the impeachment bid against the President "misguided."

Puno, brother of Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Kampi chair, told reporters that the board used transparent, objective and technical criteria to determine where the funds would go—to engineering districts and not to congressional districts.

"Engineering districts sometimes mirror congressional districts, and this is where confusion is taking place. Some congressmen believe that the funds for engineering districts are actually funds for congressional districts when they are not. The law did not intend this. Certainly, we are not implementing it in this way," the Road Board executive director said.

Not a congressional fund

He explained that the road tax was not a congressional fund.

Puno said the Road Board had been working on allocating funds for preventive maintenance for the past eight months, even before the political crisis started.

"How can it be political when eight months ago there was no political crisis?" he asked.

Puno said putting political color to the preventive maintenance allocation "is a classic example of how good governance can go awry because of too much politics."

Asked about reports that some Lakas members may be grumbling after receiving smaller allocations than their Kampi counterparts, Puno said the Road Board was not favoring any lawmaker.

"If you look at the way projects were allocated, it was really neutral. We don't care who's the congressman in a certain area," he said.

Allocation formula

Luis Mamitag, director of the DPWH Road Program Office (RPO), said the Road Board used an objective formula to determine how much preventive maintenance funding should go to a region. The RPO works with the Road Board in deciding where to allocate the RUT funds.

To determine the fund allocation ceiling per region, the Road Board takes into account the number of vehicles per region, the physical length of the roads there, the road surface and the road width.

After the allocation per region has been determined, the Road Board selects regional projects. To do this, it uses the Highway Development and Management Program4 (HDM4), a software developed by the World Bank, according to Mamitag.

The HDM4 uses factors like road roughness, traffic volume, road damage, vehicle operating costs and cost of asset preservation, and indicators like the average daily traffic and equivalent standard axle load to identify regional road projects. Also taken into consideration is whether the project is a high impact one.

The HDM4 software is also used to determine which of the projects should be prioritized. This is the basis used for allocating the preventive maintenance funds.

"Our criteria are very objective," Mamitag said.

Priorities

To explain some of the allocations, Mamitag said the roads in Isabela, which was allocated P65 million, needed more preventive maintenance work than the roads in one area of Cebu, which received P37.8 million.

He said areas that received no such funds from the Road Board were those whose roads do not necessarily need to be worked on now.

Puno also said that the Road Board had a road maintenance backlog worth P50 billion. If its P5.1 billion allocation for preventive maintenance is implemented, it would just be addressing 10 percent of the problem.

He said that since the Road Board only had a certain amount and could address only part of the problem, it had to prioritize the areas where the money would go. He added that this prioritization, under which some areas get no funds, may have led to confusion among some lawmakers.

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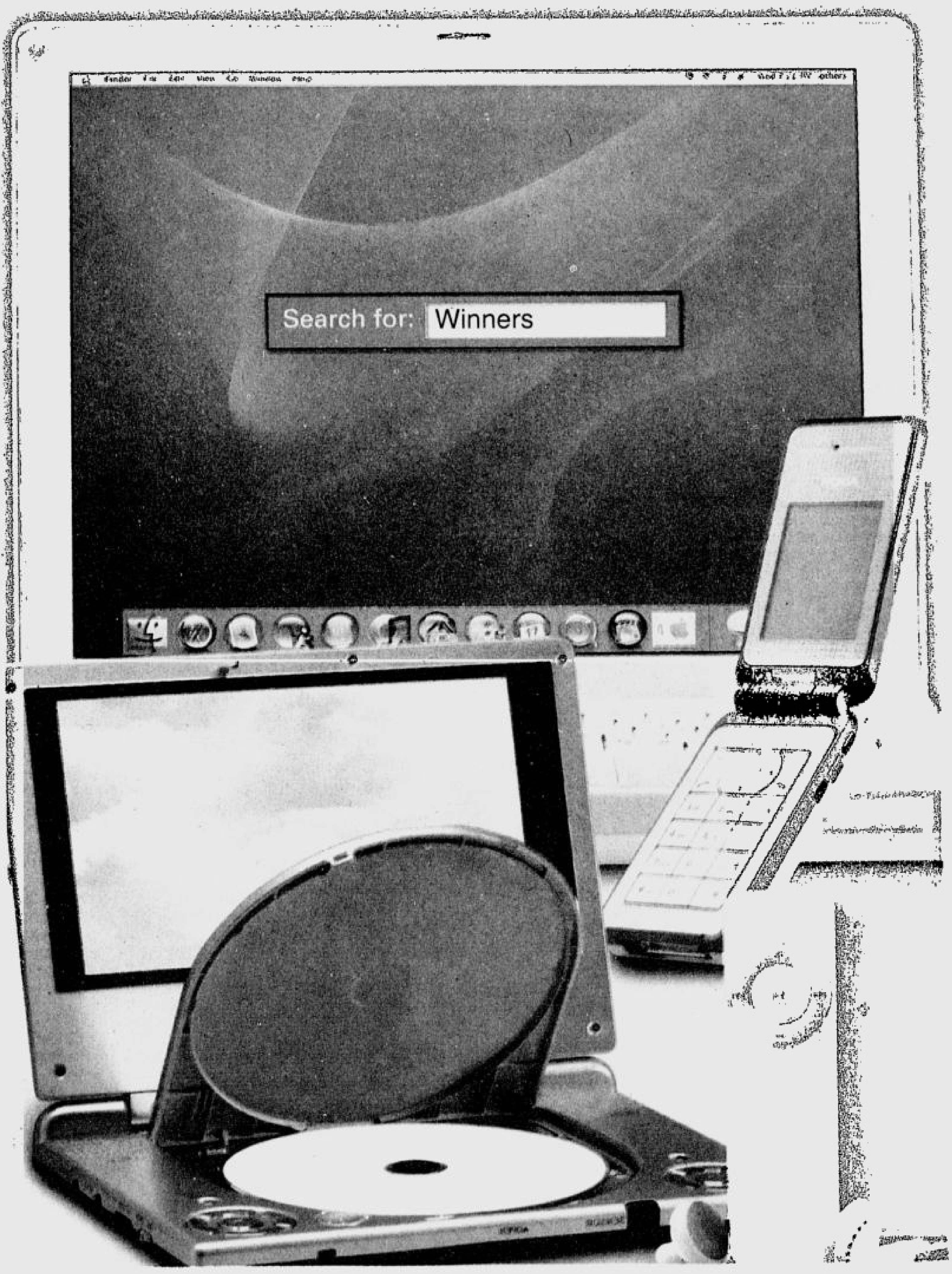

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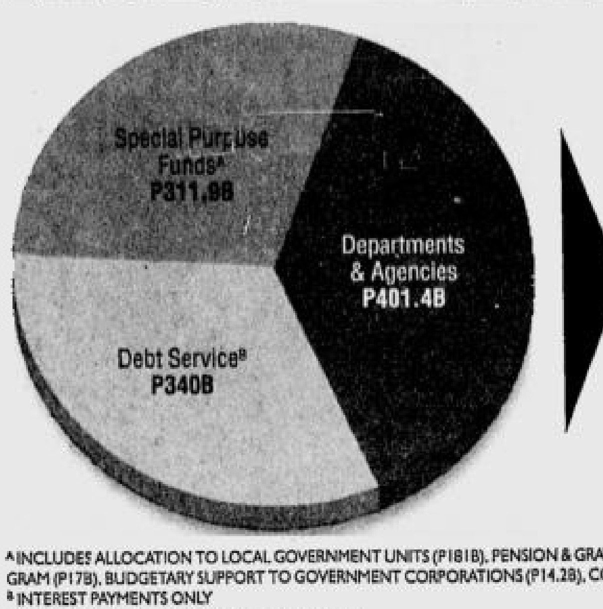
Top 12 Departments & Agencies



Top 12 Departments & Agencies

1. Education^C	P 134.8B
2. Public Works & Highways	62.3
3. National Defense	46.6
4. Interior & Local Government	45.6
5. Transportation & Communications	14.3
6. Health	10.6
7. Judiciary	8.5
8. ARMM	8.3
9. Finance	6.9
10. Environment & Natural Resources	6.3
11. Foreign Affairs	5.3
12. Justice	5.3
Subtotal	*354.8*
Others	46.53
TOTAL	P 401.4B

A INCLUDES ALLOCATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (P181B), PENSION & GRATUITY FUND (P52.5B), AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (P17B), BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS (P14.2B), COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT FUND (P13.1B), ETC.
B INTEREST PAYMENTS ONLY
C INCLUDES STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Payments on the principal are, however, not included in the national budget as they are treated as "off-budget" items.

To illustrate how debt service is eating into public spending, Andaya said the total debt payment of P721.7 billion was "80 percent of what the government plans to spend this year."

In compliance with the Constitution that requires that education gets the biggest outlay, the Department of Education will receive P119.1 billion, including P2 billion for new school buildings. *(See list of departments and their respective budgets.)*

Comelec gets hefty increase

While agencies see their budget allocation increasing overall by 6.2 percent to P401.375 billion next year, some departments appear to have gotten bigger increases than others.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (up 77 percent to P14.26 billion), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (up 18 percent to P8.34 billion), Commission on Elections (up 134 percent to P3.28 billion), National Economic and Development Authority (up 114 percent to P2.75 billion), Department of Energy (up 67 percent to P1.67 billion), Department of Budget and Management (up 55 percent to P603 million) and the Office of the Vice President (up 55 percent to P130 million).

Andaya said the proposal was anchored on macro-economic assumptions like a real gross domestic product growth of 6.3 percent; an inflation of 7.5 percent; a peso-dollar rate of P55-57 to $1, and Dubai oil price of $53.64 per barrel.

"In the few weeks, as we review the budget, we will find out if their financial clairvoyance is excellent because this early there are reservations that some of the targets are deflated while others are a bit high," he said.

Reasonable

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday described as "reasonable" the proposed budget which would lavish the military and police, pensioners and government employees, and certain government agencies with sizable increases in their allocations.

In a statement, Ms Arroyo said that although the 2006 budget of P1.05 trillion was 15 percent higher than the P918.6-billion 2005 budget, "this is reasonable compared to the larger expenditure efforts of previous administrations."

"I have submitted our budget for next year to Congress in the hope that this will be given utmost priority as a strategic weapon against the looming oil crisis and as a strategic tool to fight poverty by placing our resources squarely on the socio-economic imperatives facing our people," the President said.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said the budget focused on education, transportation, infrastructure and various economic and social projects as part of the administration's goal to create more jobs and broaden the poor's access to electricity and potable water.

Social services got the biggest allocation with P293.9 billion followed by economic services with P197.2 billion.

Intelligence fund

Neri said the 2006 budget not only maintained the pork barrel funds of congressmen (P40 million) and senators (P120 million), but also maintained the President's intelligence funds (estimated at P1.2 billion).

The President's economic adviser, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, hailed the 2006 budget as the first "growth budget" in nine years with capital outlay increased by a hefty 52 percent to stoke domestic demand and improve infrastructure.

A major cost item in the budget is the P13.1-billion or 8-percent hike in the salaries of government employees next year, the first pay increase in four years, and the P10-billion allocation for a retrenchment program that would give 30,000 employees an average P333,333 in retirement package.

But some items in the proposed budget have raised doubts on the government's sincerity to prune down its spending.

Gov't corporations up by 22%

After asking state companies to be frugal and to stop their dependence on Malacañang, the government has raised its budgetary support for government corporations by 22 percent to P14.192 billion.

Although Neri said that local government units have been enjoying surpluses because of their robust tax takes, the government still raised the allocation to cities, towns and municipalities by 16 percent to P181 billion.

Aside from the P5-billion modernization fund for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the government also allocated P52.528 billion (up 51 percent) for pension and gratuity fund and P8.799 billion (up 275 percent) for miscellaneous personal benefits of military, police and government retirees, most of whom have been demanding payment for the huge arrears in their pension.

Funding the proposed budget would come from revenues of P968.6 billion, of which the Bureau of Internal Revenue is expected to contribute P675.4 billion. The Bureau of Customs has been tasked with raising P190.5 billion, according to Andaya.

More borrowings

The revenue gap of P124.9 billion will be financed through borrowings.

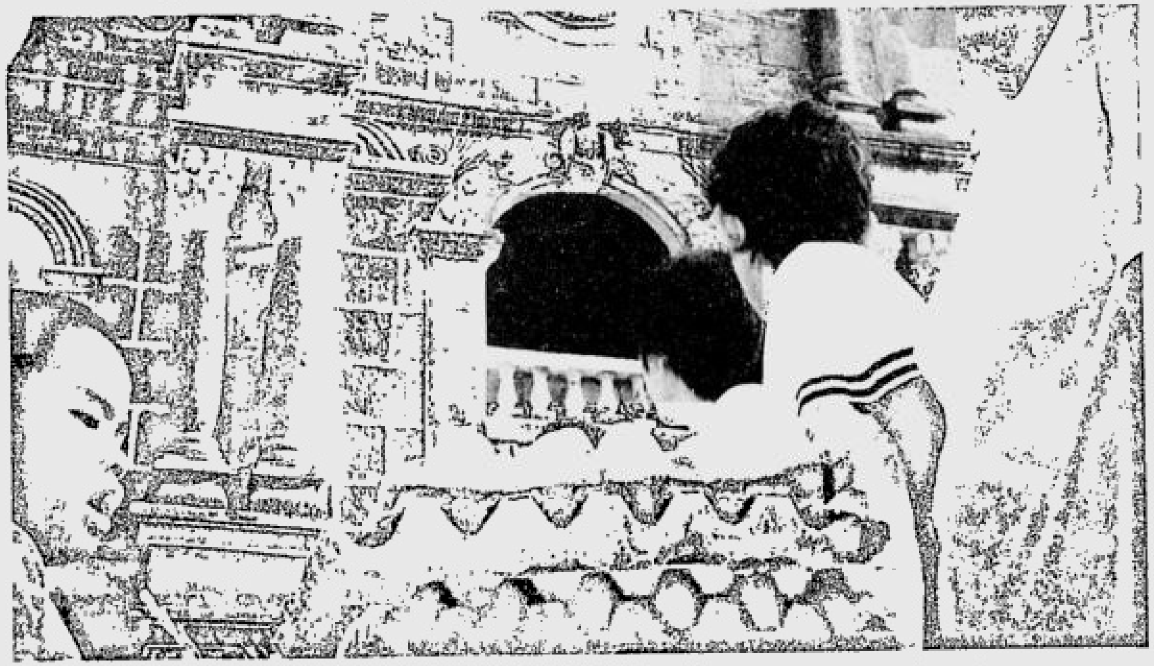
Although its implementation still hangs in the balance, the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) is already factored in in the proposed "supersize budget" of the Arroyo administration next year, Andaya said.

Andaya disclosed that much of the increase in infrastructure spending—from P64.5 billion to P97.8 billion—would come from projected revenues from the expanded VAT.

He noted that the 2006 budget bill contained the biggest jump in infrastructure spending in a decade.

Fried eggs, sunny side up for Pampanga town

From page A1



POULTRY capital of Luzon, Minalin, Pampanga, aside from serving fried eggs to celebrate its resurgence also feasted on 2,000 hardboiled eggs.
PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

sembled as early as 6 a.m. in front of the centuries-old brick church.

Florendo Juico, president of the Parish Pastoral Council, said the feat, the biggest known so far for any egg banquet, had no intent of charting a world record.

This even as Pampanga has shown a penchant for making the biggest and longest—from lanterns to native delicacies, such as *sisig* (pork dish) and *longganiza* (native sausage).

Proud of revival

Juico said the event only aimed to project joy and pride in the revival of the local poultry industry.

"Minalin is now producing a million eggs a day. We really are a large producer," Juico, also a poultry grower, said. Before the Pinatubo eruptions in 1991, the town was producing such volume, he said.

At present, the town has 1.2 million chicken layers housed in more than 200 buildings. The homegrown poultry business has become more efficient than it was in the 1950s when it began on a commercial scale.

Three cooperatives of more than 100 growers handle their own marketing and centralized purchasing of feeds, Juico said.

Metro Manila gets 40 percent of the town's daily egg production, Mayor Edgardo Flores said. The rest is sold to provinces in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon.

Lahar spell

The poultry industry has helped Minalin recover from the disaster as it employs at least 10,000 workers and benefit some 5,000 retailers, Flores said.

Lahar from nearby Bacolor town spilled to Minalin as early as 1992, clogging the rivers and worsening the flooding in the coastal town. Traders relocated to towns in eastern Pampanga where floodwaters were not too high.

Paz Sumbillo has stuck to the business and prefers doing that in Minalin than elsewhere. In her farm, an average of 21,000 eggs are produced daily.

Faith

But the industry is still grappling with high cost of feeds, said Juico. Prices have increased by 75 percent over the last five years, he said. A 50-kg bag of corn feeds mixed with imported soya now costs P650.

The threat of bird flu still hangs and the protection of the industry from the disease was one of the intentions said in the Mass that preceded the banquet.

"It's the people's faith that has tided them over the hard times," Manny Sta. Maria, the parish priest, said.

New AFP chief says graft complaint a 'poison letter'

From page A1

a supposed complaint against him.

Senga said he was unaware that any formal complaint for graft had been issued or that he was under investigation by the Ombudsman as the INQUIRER had reported on Aug. 16.

The INQUIRER report, attributed to a "well-placed lawyer" in the office of the Ombudsman, said the complaint alleged that Senga and two officers "sold" the entire 6th Infantry Division to a candidate in the last election.

"It is contained in a poison letter signed by an anonymous person claiming he's an enlisted man in the 6th Infantry Division," Senga said in an interview with the INQUIRER on Tuesday. Senga previously headed the division.

The 55-year-old general said the letter was "suspiciously" circulated in October 2004 during the selection process for the next Army chief to succeed then Gen. Efren Abu, who had been appointed AFP chief of staff.

Senga said he first saw the letter during the confirmation hearings of the Commission on Appointments on his promotion to a three-star general.

Senga was later named chief of the Philippine Army. He was subsequently appointed chief of staff of the 113,000-strong AFP and was sworn in on Aug. 15.

A source in the Ombudsman, who declined to be named, said the agency had received several letters alleging irregularities concerning Senga. The names of the writers were not disclosed. The source said the letters were being evaluated, but no complaint had been issued and that Senga was not under investigation.

Asked if he ever received a formal complaint, Senga said: "There is none. I have not been notified by the Ombudsman."

A highly regarded combat officer, Senga said the allegation was unfair because the letter only mentioned an officer working under him having received a bag supposedly filled with money.

"It didn't say I received anything. I was not even in the picture," Senga said.

The letter was apparently not given credence by the Commission on Appointments, Senga said. Inspite of the letter, Senga said, "I was promoted and confirmed by the CA."

"So what does it mean? I have no pending case. I've been cleared," Senga said.

HK graft-buster says RP not mission ...

From page A1

Arroyo herself is facing impeachment over claims that she cheated in last year's presidential election and that members of her family have been receiving "jueteng" payoffs.

Kwok's war room is a windowless office tucked away on the ground floor of the Office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City. It is a far cry from the plush surroundings he had grown accustomed to during his days with the ICAC in Hong Kong.

But as far as Kwok is concerned, surroundings are not important. It is the "war" effort that counts.

Textbook example

Hong Kong's war on corruption in the 1960s to the '70s lasted seven years, backed by the will of the British colonial administration, a newly formed ICAC and a legal system free to prosecute and bring convictions.

Kwok says the Philippines should not be any different.

"Hong Kong is the textbook example of what can be done in the fight against corruption. It's not easy but it can be done," he says.

"There is no shortage of political will to fight corruption here in the Philippines. From the President down to her Cabinet ministers and heads of government departments, you have the will. Ordinary Filipinos are fed up with it as well."

Kwok speaks with an almost evangelical enthusiasm for his mission, but others fear he is doomed to fail.

"Comparing the Philippines to Hong Kong is just ludicrous," one diplomat said. "Hong Kong was ruled by the British and had the rule of law. What do you have here? You have a group of rich families and vested interests looking after one another . . . Everyone is on the take and that's just the way it is."

Legal system an obstacle

Kwok concedes that political will alone is not enough to fight corruption. "You must have a legal system that is prepared to take the cases on, process them quickly and see that wrongdoers are jailed. There has been no prominent person jailed for corruption in this country, not one."

Even in Indonesia, which a survey of foreign businessmen ranked as the most corrupt country in Asia after the Philippines, top officials have been charged and jailed on graft charges.

A study by the Supreme Court found that it takes almost seven years for a case to go through the Sandiganbayan. "That's got to be some kind of world record," says Kwok.

For Kwok, who is used to the efficiency of the Hong Kong legal system where most corruption cases are dealt with in a year or less, the Philippine legal system will be his biggest obstacle.

"Unless you have an efficient court system where corruption cases can be tried and dealt with easily and corrupt people sentenced promptly, it makes the war on corruption difficult to fight . . . very difficult," he says.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, with whom Kwok works closely, also sees the country's legal system as hindering antigraft efforts.

There are moves in Congress to improve the efficiency of the Sandiganbayan, where there is said to be a backlog of about 10,000 cases going back decades and only 15 justices to hear them. Most people brought before the court escape conviction.

Rotten from top down

"This country may be bad, but you should have been in Hong Kong during the 1960s and '70s ... The place was rotten from top to bottom," Kwok says.

A customs officer since 1966, Kwok saw how the payoffs plague had broken out in the colony. No ordinary lawman, he wanted to fight corruption and found the customs service too restrictive.

ICAC offered a bigger challenge and the right outlet for his passion to fight crime. It was staffed mostly with former policemen from Britain, but Kwok joined in 1975 as one of the few local Chinese recruits.

Showing ability and dedication to the job, Kwok quickly rose through the ranks to become the first local ICAC officer appointed deputy commissioner and head of operations in 1996.

"The government, while maintaining social order, could not satisfy the insatiable needs of the colony's exploding population. It opened the door to corruption at all levels where people obtained the things they needed through the back door. Corruption became an accepted fact of life," he says.

"If your house or building was on fire, the fire brigade would arrive and ask you how much to put the fire out. It sounds like a joke now but it was true."

Police turned a blind eye to crimes, including drugs and gambling.

'The 6 a.m. knock'

"The whole social fabric had started to fall apart when the public said: 'Enough is enough.' The colonial administration declared war on corruption. It was just like a scene out of that American television show 'The Untouchables' where Eliot Ness took on the country's biggest gangster Al Capone."

He smiles when he recalls the 6 a.m. knock.

"That's when we would raid someone's house or flat. Even the bad guys needed sleep. The ICAC thought 6 a.m. was a good time to call. Yes, most of them were in bed when the door caved in. We would arrest them, cart them off and search the premises. We usually got what we wanted."

Years of fighting crime do not seem to have taken their toll on Kwok. His short black hair has a slight touch of gray. Playing squash keeps him fit, and he is also a keen scuba diver. He also found time to raise his three daughters who have gone on to achieve professional and academic success.

But for Kwok, who retired in 2002, the ICAC was not just a job. "I saw it as my mission in life."

Sought everywhere

Kwok is still sought throughout the region, including China where he has spent a great deal of his time advising provincial governments on how to fight corruption. Last year, he was invited by the World Bank to Nigeria to help set up a strategic planning workshop to fight corruption in the West African nation, which he says poses a huge challenge for graft-busters.

He finds the Philippines a challenge, but not an impossible one.

"When the President asked for my help she said: 'Tony, where do we start?' I simply told her the anticorruption agencies, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, must have the tools to fight," he says. "The anticorruption court has to be strengthened to process and convict graft cases."

16 gov't offices

Kwok declines to reveal his salary, saying: "Money is not an issue for me." Already, with the help of $3.7 million in funding from the European Union, he has established an anticorruption drive in 16 key government offices.

Kwok says the fight against corruption in the Philippines will be based on a three-pronged campaign—prevention, education and deterrence.

"The Ombudsman is totally independent here, more so than in Hong Kong. The government recently put more resources into the Office of the Ombudsman. By the end of next year the number of investigators will have grown from a handful to 200. That is real progress," he said.

And Kwok, the passionate graft-buster, believes it will not be the end. "Nothing is impossible," he says. *AFP*

Manifesto of support for Her Excellency
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
by the government leaders of the
PROVINCE OF BATANGAS

WHEREAS, the Country has never before witnessed an organized and systematic effort to destabilize the Government such as the one we are experiencing now;

WHEREAS, at no other time in the country's political history has the Presidency been beleaguered by forces inimical to the stability and development of the country;

WHEREAS, despite pleas to let the wheels of Justice run its rightful course, elements of destabilization continue to sow confusion and intrigue among the general populace;

WHEREAS, the signs of the time beckon that Filipinos in all strata of Philippine society be critical and analytic, taking into consideration the general welfare;

WHEREFORE, the Government leaders of the Province of Batangas hereby manifest that:

We personally believe in and shall follow the leadership of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo;

We support her efforts of achieving national unity through genuine reconciliation among all sectors of the Republic; and

We will fight all unconstitutional attempts to unseat her from the Presidency.

Done this 23rd day of August, 2005 at the Batangas Provincial Capitol, Batangas City.

HON. ARMANDO CARPIO SANCHEZ
Governor

Hon. Atty. Ronaldo A. Geron
Provincial Administrator

Hon. Florencio de Loyola
Board Member

Hon. Sergio Atienza
Board Member

Hon. Cecilio Hernandez
Board Member

Hon. Mark Leviste
Board Member

Hon. Rodolfo Balba
Board Member

Hon. Godofredo Berberabe Jr.
Board Member

Hon. Adorlito Ginete
President - LMMP - Batangas

Hon. Llanda Bolilia
Board Member

Hon. Manolo Maloles, Jr.
President – LMB - Batangas

Hon. Jayvee Bendaña
President – SK Fed. - Batangas

Hon. Benjamin Bausas, Jr.
Board Member

(Sgd.) **Hon. Victor Portugal, Jr.**
Board Member

(Sgd.) **Hon. Vicente Magnaye**
President VML - Batangas

Adorlito B. Ginete
Municipal Mayor /LMP President
Sta. Teresita, Batangas

Mayor Mario Magsaysay, Jr.
San Pascual

Mayor Benjamin E. Martinez, Jr.
Balayan

Mayor Enrique M. Comia
Cuenca

Mayor Guillermo A. Reyes
Alitagtag

Mayor Cristeta C. Reyes
Malvar

Mayor Raul B. Bendaña
Lemery

Mayor Edna P. Sanchez
Sto. Tomas

Mayor David D. Pamplona
Balete

Mayor Librado M. Cabrera
Taal

Mayor. Edgardo G. Calingasan
Tuy

Mayor Hermilando J. Dolor
Bauan

Mayor Peter Oliver M. Palacio
Calatagan

Mayor Anacorita P. Portugal
Taysan

Mayor Glorioso R. Martinez
Agoncillo

Mayor Danilo M. Sombrano
Mataas na Kahoy

Mayor Artemio P. Chua
Ibaan

Mayor Sofronio C. Ona, Jr.
Calaca

Mayor Rodolfo C. Mendoza
San Luis

Mayor Florencio M. Manimtim, Jr.
Talisay

Mayor Virgilio R. Manalo
Lobo

Mayor Prudencio A. Gutierez
Padre Garcia

Mayor Felipe A. Marquez
Rosario

Mayor Rodolfo H. Manalo
San Juan

Mayor John Benedict P. Panganiban
Laurel

Mayor Antonio A. Barcelon
Nasugbu

Mayor Ruben R. Guce
San Jose

Mayor Osita P. Vergara
Lian

Mayor Rowell M. Sandoval
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Mayor Napoleon V. Areco
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Cruz witness shows Bingo Combo papers

From page A1

King said in a phone interview.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said there was "enough legal gaming" under the auspices of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Pagcor, "and there is no need for more."

"What we need is a total stop to jueteng operations that have sucked dry the meager resources of our people and have become a counterproductive political distraction," he said.

Bingo halls

According to King, Pagcor runs "bingo halls" in shopping malls in Metro Manila but these do not include Bingo Combo.

"I don't know where they are getting those figures," he said when asked to comment on reports that Pagcor stood to get 20 percent of Bingo Combo's projected P80-million daily proceeds.

On Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the new antijueteng czar, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, to stamp out jueteng by Sept. 15 following reports of a "slight resurgence" of the illegal racket in some parts of the country.

On Tuesday, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, citing information from his Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said the Arroyo administration would reintroduce jueteng as Bingo Combo through Pagcor.

He said it would be "the same dog with a different collar."

But Bunye said Ms Arroyo was not inclined to back moves to legalize jueteng.

"There may be some attempts to legalize jueteng, but they do not have the support of the President," Bunye said in a statement.

King said Archbishop Cruz should have called Pagcor first before going public with his claim on the agency's role in Bingo Combo.

"Our lines are open. He can talk to us. We will answer all his queries," King said of the antigambling crusader.

He said Cruz was "just being fed wrong information."

'Worse than jueteng'

Mayor, the undisputed gambling lord in Bicol in 1995-2003, said Bingo Combo was "worse than jueteng" and would "further squeeze the poor dry."

Quoting the Isabela jueteng lord, the alleged brains of Bingo Combo, Mayor said the machines worth P175,000 each were ready for operation.

He said Bingo Combo operators would manipulate results through a computer system with monitors similar to those used in off-track betting stations.

"In jueteng, we manipulated winners manually," Mayor said. "Here, it's much more precise because it's the computer that would automatically ease out the combinations with the most bets."

As in jueteng, the new game will provide choices of combinations between 1 and 38, Mayor said. He said the game was named such because bettors would actually bet on bingo cards with corresponding numbers, and the screen would flash the winning combination.

Particulars

The Pagcor guidelines state that betting station operators will be entitled to a 7-percent commission from gross bets subject to 10-percent tax.

But Mayor said the commission would actually go to local executives using the operators as "fronts."

He also said:

- That while P10 was the minimum bet, operators had been instructed to allow bets between P1 and P9.
- That the proceeds from the underground bets would be the source of the commission for mayors and their people.
- That only 20 percent of the total revenues would go to the government through Pagcor.
- That part of the agreement between Bingo Combo organizers and gambling operators was that governors, congressmen and media persons—supposedly traditionally included in the list of jueteng payola in the past—would be excluded from the payoffs.

2nd batch

Mayor said that by Feb. 22, he had applied for franchises with Pagcor and secured a mayor's permit for operations in Daraga and Legaspi in Albay.

He said he would have been part of the "second batch" of operators had he not come forward in May and volunteered to testify at the Senate jueteng inquiry through former Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

Also allegedly in the batch was Palawan, Hagedorn's bailiwick.

Mayor said "pilot tests" were initially set between April and May in 10 towns and cities in Bulacan and Metro Manila.

He said organizers had planned to expand throughout Luzon and raise P80 million daily.

Asked to comment on Bingo Combo, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said:

"It's not for us to comment on the merits and demerits of that particular activity.

"The PNP will implement the law [and will discern] what is legal and illegal. Anyone who does something illegal, we will arrest. That's how it should be."

'Palliative measures'

The Pagcor guidelines require applicants to deposit a minimum betting credit of P250,000 on top of a P100,000 performance bond.

"If the betting station does not meet the level of sales to be set by Pagcor from time to time, Pagcor shall require the operator to improve the sales of the betting station, opt for one-time site transfer or close down the betting station," the guidelines said.

"I like the concept of the Bingo Combo to be run by Pagcor, but I must stress that we have never discussed the project," said Hagedorn, whom Ms Arroyo had chosen to lead the antijueteng drive because of his success in stamping out the racket in Puerto Princesa.

He told the INQUIRER that while he supported Bingo Combo and other legal forms of gambling to replace jueteng, "these should be treated only as palliative measures and not long-term solutions to [the problem of] jueteng."

"I think the solution to our problem is still economics. The government should provide jobs and alternative livelihood to the people who will be displaced by the crackdown on jueteng," he added.

'Only mandate'

In a statement, Hagedorn said the "only mandate" of the antijueteng task force was to stop the illegal racket.

He said other numbers games—legal or illegal, private or government-run—was not the task force's business.

Hagedorn said he issued this clarification to debunk allegations that the antijueteng campaign was "just a smokescreen for other numbers games that will be used to replace jueteng."

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. wondered why Hagedorn was performing dual roles: as antijueteng czar and mayor of Puerto Princesa.

"I know him to be a decent guy, and he's a friend, too," Pimentel said. "The point I'm raising is that he might find himself in a difficult situation, and I believe he should exercise caution [as antijueteng czar]. It's not his job."

Targeting the poor

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson called on Ms Arroyo to stop Pagcor from implementing Bingo Combo.

"It's not the policy of the state to bring gambling to every family or at the doorstep of every household on a daily basis," Lacson said, adding that both jueteng and its apparent substitute were "targeting the poor."

Pimentel echoed Lacson's view, saying: "This is where the evil of jueteng really lies: the exploitation of the poor. It doesn't matter whether the exploitation is done by a private person or by the government..."

In an interview, Lacson said Bingo Combo was the result of a compromise between gambling lords and government officials who were benefiting from jueteng.

"[I think] that's the reason for launching Bingo Combo. Jueteng has become too hot an issue. They have no choice but to find a substitute... an alternative," he said, adding:

"If there's no substitute, the mayors will surely make an issue out of it because they stand to lose huge earnings [if jueteng is phased out]." *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Luige A. del Puerto in Manila*

Proimpeachment lawmaker withdraws signature

From page A1

said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero. "It was only sad that Malacañang is putting so much pressure on lawmakers to junk the impeachment complaint."

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor admitted he was also attempting to convince Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers to reconsider his vote for impeachment.

"We met early this morning and we agreed that our friendship should not be affected by these developments," said Defensor, one of Ms Arroyo's spokespersons.

"I'm still hoping against hope that somehow, through discussion and continued explanation, that I may be able to convince him about the impeachment case," he added.

Four young guns

Defensor and Barbers belong to the so-called "Spice Boys"—a group of young congressmen in the House minority who pushed for the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada.

Barbers along with another group of young lawmakers—Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes and Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski—on Tuesday signed the impeachment complaint.

Conscience vote

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administration party, Lakas, was attempting to win back the young lawmakers. "You're like a parent. You have a child who goes astray and you make sure he doesn't go that way."

Sen. Manuel Villar, president of the Nacionalista Party, defended Remulla's action. "That was a conscience vote and I think there will be others who will sign," said Villar.

The NP has 20 members in the House, including Remulla and Villar's wife Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, who has yet to decide whether to sign the complaint.

Endorser not complainant

Magsaysay said he had intended to sign only as an endorser of the complaint because he had no direct knowledge of the President's alleged crimes but he ended up as one of the complainants.

"The turning point is that this is becoming a protracted nonsense. Our countrymen are suffering. They cannot eat politics," Magsaysay said.

"If I see a smoking gun, so to speak, I reserve the right to change my mind again. It's not wrong to make a mistake."

He said that he was also not retracting his accusation that administration lawmakers tried to bribe him last month.

"I'm not retracting the bribery issue. Let's just bring it to the proper forum and talk about it in the ethics committee. Like I said, I will name names. Those were my words: I'm not retracting," Magsaysay said.

From 7 to 2

Opposition leaders said they feared about a dozen more may follow suit, making it virtually impossible for them to reach the 79 votes needed to impeach Ms Arroyo. As it stands, 46 lawmakers are supporting a motion to impeach Ms Arroyo, leaving the opposition 33 votes short of the number needed to bypass the committee and trigger a Senate trial.

The House committee on justice moved to whittle down seven prejudicial questions to two after voting down an opposition effort on Tuesday to go immediately into the substance of the impeachment complaint.

The two constitutional questions that must be resolved first are: whether an amended complaint can be regarded as a new complaint and whether the initial complaint filed by Oliver Lozano, a private lawyer and Arroyo sympathizer, constituted a bar to two other subsequent complaints.

Lozano complaint

A vote on these two questions—expected next week—would then allow the panel to discuss the form and substance of the complaint. Because of the weaker Lozano complaint, administration lawmakers believe they could easily kill the impeachment case.

The Lozano complaint was based on an illegally wiretapped conversation said to be evidence Ms Arroyo cheated in the balloting. The subsequent complaints were more elaborate, including culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery and graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust.

Ms Arroyo has denied any election wrongdoing.

Malacañang has said it expected Congress to resolve the case against the President soon so she could attend the UN General Assembly in New York without an "impeachment baggage."

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he expected a "final vote" within the next several days.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, an administration maverick, said he could not understand why the House could entertain the complaint by Lozano, who is not even a congressman, while ignoring the sentiment of the representatives who signed the impeachment case.

"So that there will be credibility in whatever they do, they should be able to entertain the complaint of the minority congressmen so there will be no doubt that they are not suppressing the impeachment complaint," Arroyo said.

Arroyo also said the House should resolve the case immediately.

Draining coffers

"They should finish this already because she's draining the government coffers," Arroyo said.

The opposition has accused President Arroyo of using the government's financial clout to shore up her support in Congress and prevent a Senate impeachment trial that could end her 4-year presidency.

Also yesterday, local government executives appealed to lawmakers to stop the impeachment hearings, saying these are doomed to fail.

Bull-headed

"The opposition has become unreasonably bull-headed," said Ben Evardone, Eastern Samar governor and spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. "People are interested in the security of their jobs, in putting food on the table and in providing for the future of their children," he said.

Joining Evardone at his press conference yesterday were Albay Vice Gov. Jesus Calisin of the Vice Governor's League, Mandaue Councilor Carlo Fortuna of the National Councilor's League, Maasin Mayor Darwin Mercado, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, and San Jose, Bulacan Mayor Angelito Sarmiento. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Norman Bordadora and Leila B. Salaverria*

'Independent' Enrile joins Senate majority

From page A1

dence of the Senate as an institution," Drilon said in a statement.

Drilon may have been speaking with a touch of irony as at least two Palace sources had told the INQUIRER that Enrile was headed for the Senate presidency.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also welcomed Enrile's decision. It was Pimentel who initiated moves to oust Enrile as the opposition's representative to the Commission on Appointments before the end of the regular session in June.

Divide is clear

"The migration of Senator Enrile . . . frees us of the unpleasant duty of ousting him from the ranks of the opposition. The divide is now clear. We wish him well," he said.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was not aware of any plan by Enrile to seek the Senate presidency, and that he doubted Enrile would rock the boat and challenge Drilon.

Drilon's faction of the Liberal Party had withdrawn support from President Arroyo last month following the resignation of the "Hyatt 10" and former President Cory Aquino's call for Ms Arroyo to resign.

Not surprised

Lacson said that Enrile "just formalized what we have known a long time ago. We are not surprised by his announcement. We did not consider him part of the minority since he stopped attending our caucuses. It's not that significant."

Enrile said that his move was an offshoot of his talks with Drilon and other lawmakers in the majority, including Senators Manuel Roxas II and Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

Drilon, together with Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Rodolfo Biazon and 17 other Liberal Party members, broke ties with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the height of calls for her resignation on July 8.

All by his lonesome

Enrile said he was not a member of the minority group anyway "so I have to work with the majority for the country."

He said his move was an offshoot of his breakaway from the minority bloc several months ago.

"Since I'm all alone ... my lonesome self as an opposition, I may just as well work with the group," Enrile said.

Enrile's announcement confirmed speculations that swirled a month ago that someone from the minority bloc was crossing over to the majority group.

Enrile declared independence from the opposition after he got miffed by insinuations by some opposition lawmakers that he was an "opportunist" at the height of the heated debates on the expanded value-added tax.

He, however, stressed that he was not renouncing his affiliation with the opposition party Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), which he chairs, as well as his role as an "opposition."

Enrile said he also consulted fellow PMP partymates, Estrada and Sen. Loi Ejercito, about his decision and they agreed with him.

The PMP is the party of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"What is good for the country I will support, what is bad for the country I will oppose," he told reporters.

Enrile said he was comfortable working with the rest of the administration senators. "Yes, I can work with anybody."

With Drilon in the majority are Pangilinan, Biazon, Roxas and Lapid, and Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Manuel Villar Jr., Joker Arroyo, Pia Cayetano, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Richard Gordon.

Those in the minority bloc with Pimentel are Senators Alfredo Lim, Sergio Osmeña III, Jamby Madrigal, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada and Panfilo Lacson. Sen. Edgardo Angara has considered himself independent.

No concessions

In his talks with the majority, Enrile said he did not ask for any concession.

"I will have to check what committees they will give me. I have not asked for any committee. They have not offered any committee to me either," he said, but noted that his membership in the CA was an addition to the majority.

Ermita: Palace a 'garden of Eden,' not a 'snake pit'

From page A1

people call Malacañang a snake pit," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters yesterday, referring to the Palace's reputation as a coven of power-hungry schemers who would stop at nothing to grab other people's posts or earn brownie points from the prime occupant.

He added: "I have never met any snakes here, and I think my life has been enhanced here. And I thank the President for having confidence in my humble person."

The three-term congressman and former military officer recalled that he too felt uneasy when he got wind of the rumor that President Macapagal-Arroyo was poised to kick him out and appoint Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz in his place.

"I thought he (Cruz) was going to replace me come Monday, but it turned out it wasn't true. There are apparently no snakes here," said Ermita, whom reporters had described as more candid with the media than Ms Arroyo's other mouthpieces.

Hyatt 10

Even the sudden resignation early last month of some of his colleagues in the Cabinet has not changed Ermita's opinion about the Palace.

The so-called "Hyatt 10" led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima not only quit their posts but also called for the President's own resignation.

"I don't think what they did was treachery," Ermita said. "They resigned primarily due to the wiretapping scandal."

But he had something to say to Corazon Soliman and Teresita Deles, former social welfare secretary and chief peace negotiator, respectively, who had said they would spill the beans on the Arroyo administration if an impeachment trial pushes through.

"As former Cabinet members, they must maintain some decorum in the sense that confidential matters were discussed in executive sessions, where they had the confidence of the President," he said, adding:

"Can you imagine former Cabinet officials talking in public about something that they discussed with the President? It's unimaginable. It can only come from despicable officials. It's unethical."

But Ermita said he was not stopping them from testifying at an impeachment trial.

Besides, he said, "the President has nothing to hide."

'Ramos boy'

Ermita is said to have managed to stay put largely because of his links with former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Asked how he felt being branded a "Ramos boy," he said he was proud to be associated with a "great man" who was a comrade in battle.

At the end of his briefing, Ermita reiterated: "[The Palace] is not a snake pit at all, as others might claim. It's more like a garden of Eden."

But when reminded that a snake had lurked in that garden, he quickly took back what he said.

SC junks petition of Pepsi '349' claimants

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court has junked the third in a series of petitions filed by holders of the supposedly winning "349" crowns under Pepsi Cola Number Fever over a decade ago, putting closure to the claims for damages against the company.

In a nine-page resolution, the high court dismissed the petition for damages of 14 claimants led by a certain Amelia de Mesa against Pepsico Inc. and its local subsidiary Pepsi Cola Products, Inc., noting that the arguments they raised were the same ones the tribunal resolved in the first two petitions.

"In the instant case, the legal rights and relations of the parties, the facts, the applicable laws, the causes of action, the issues and the evidence are exactly the same as those in the decided cases of Mendoza and Rodrigo. Hence, nothing is left to be argued," the court said in a decision penned by Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing.

"The issue has been settled and this Court's final decision in the said cases must be respected. This Court's hands are now tied by the finality of the said judgments. We have no recourse but to deny the instant petition," the court added.

Holders of the winning 349 crown slapped Pepsi with a series of complaints after it refused to pay them, claiming that a security code problem had caused the erroneous announcement of the number "349" as the winning combination.

The high court earlier dismissed the petition of first Pepsi claimant Gerson M. Mendoza affirming a Court of Appeals decision that ruled in favor of Pepsi, pointing out that the security code determines the real winning crowns.

The second complaint, filed by Romulo Rodrigo, took the same legal route and the high court likewise dismissed it with finality.

In dismissing the De Mesa complaint, the court ruled that the legal principle requires courts to follow a rule already established in a final decision of the tribunal.

Cebu to host seminar on RP Studies

THE PHILIPPINE Studies Association Inc. (PSA) will hold its first regional seminar-workshop on Philippine studies in the Visayas on Sept. 9-10 at the Golden Peak Hotel and Suites in Cebu City.

The seminar-workshop, hosted by the Cebuano Studies Center and the Department of History of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, is aimed at studying the research agenda and outputs of Visayan Studies Centers and their trajectories and orientations in order to assess the state of research in Visayan studies.

The PSA was established in 1984 with the primary purpose of promoting multidisciplinary methods of study, criticism, and research in Philippine languages, literature, history, culture, and society in an effort to promote Philippine studies as an academic area of study.

It coordinates with the International Philippine Studies Committee, currently chaired by Belinda A. Aquino of the University of Hawaii.

For inquiries on the conference, contact Erlinda K. Alburo (032 -1000; csc@usc.edu.ph) or Bernardita R. Churchill (921-4575; nitachurchill@hotmail.com).

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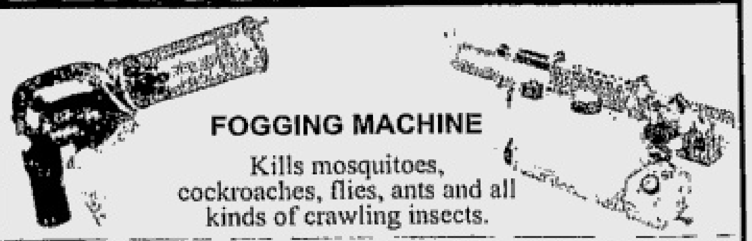

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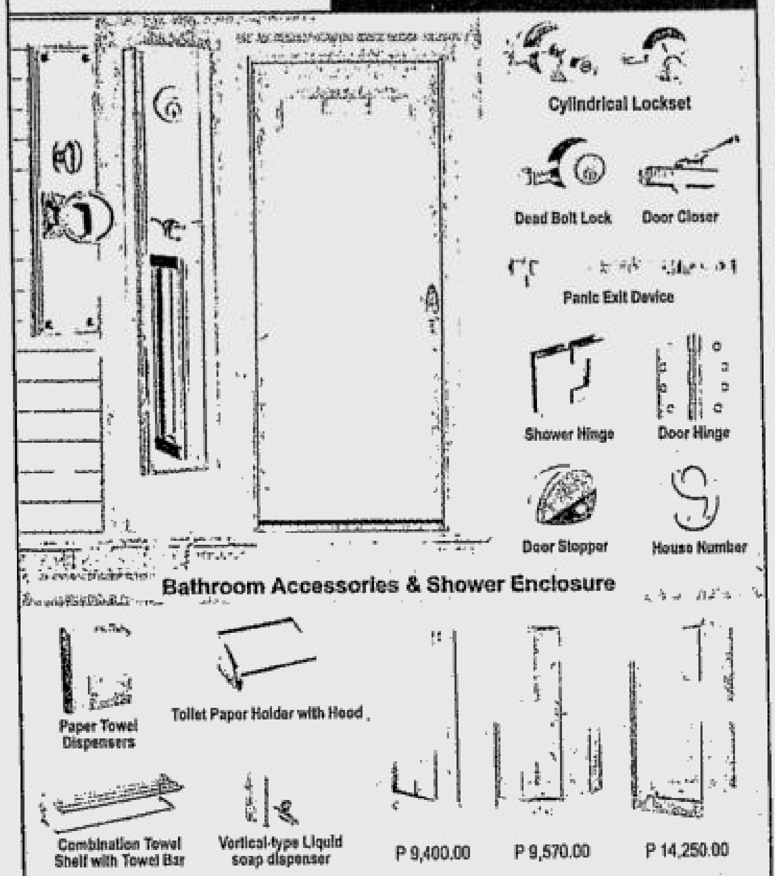

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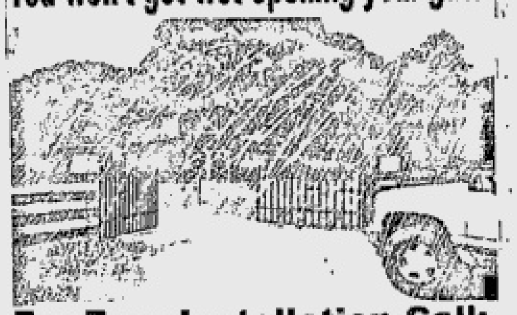

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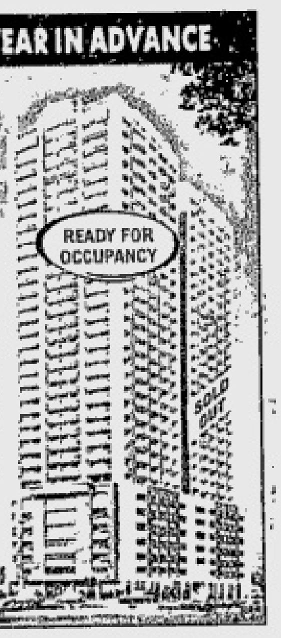

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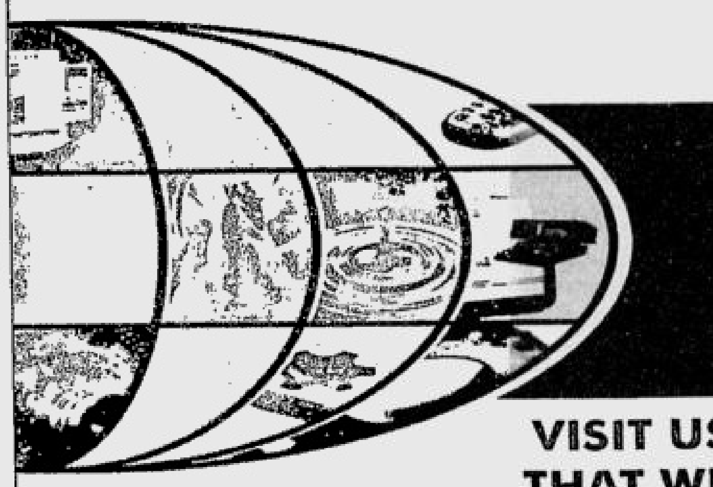

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Date & Time	Schedule of Activities
August 25, 2003 10:00-11:00 am	Opening Ceremony
2:00 - 3:00 . pm	New Opportunities with Powder Metallurgy (PM) Steels for Tooling Applications by: ASSAB Venue : Seminar Room 1 Allen Specialty Seminar Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Heat Treatment by: Philippine Metalcasting Associations Inc./ Fee: Php 400.00 Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00 pm	"Ductile Iron the Foundry Man Dream" by: Philippine Metalcasting Association Inc. Fee: Php 400.00 / Venue: Seminar Room 2
August 26, 2005 10:00 - 11:00 pm	Heat Treatment & Problem and Their Solutions by: Penta Technological, Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Automation in Machine Building in the Philippines by: OEMAP Venue: Seminar Room 1 Starret Measuring Instrument by: MAedan Enterprises Venue: Seminar Room 2
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Mitutuyo Form Machines by: MESCO, Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Designing Molds, Quickly, Accurately and Cause Effective with Solidworks by; SEACAD Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30	SYSTEM 3R Seminar by; MESCO Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Solid Edge Version 17 Design with Insight by: Technologix Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00	Licom Alpha CAM 2-5 axis CNC Machining Easy and Powerful by: Nicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1
August 27, 2005 10:00 - 11:30 pm	Alibre Design Product Presentation by: A&A Maquinas Ferramentas and MDC Venue: Seminar Room 2
10:00 - 12:00 pm	3 Metal Mania: 3M Innovations for the Metal Industry by: 3M Philippines Venue: Seminar Room 1
2:00 - 3:00 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1 Technical Innovations for the Die & Mold Industry by: Level Asia & CIM Technologies Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1 Admac Programming Software by; Penta Technology, Inc.
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Licom-AlphaCAM, 2-5 axis CNC Machining easy and powerful by: Nicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1

FREE ENTRANCE
Exhibit Hours:
August 25-27
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 28
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
PDMA Philippine Die & Mold Association, Inc.
MAI Market Access & Innovations Management Philippines
FADMA Federation of Asian Die & Mould Associations
US COMMERCIAL SERVICE United States of America Department of Commerce
CENTREX
TRANSLINK
MANUFACTURING
equipment news
MANILA BULLETIN
Hong Kong Productivity Council
THE HERITAGE HOTEL
Automation & Security Inc.

Call for Chavez assassination draws fire

WASHINGTON—The United States on Tuesday distanced itself from a call by prominent religious broadcaster Pat Robertson for Washington to assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Robertson's statements were denounced by both the State Department and by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

"This is not the policy of the United States government. We do not share his views," state department spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters, describing the TV preacher's comments as "inappropriate."

"As we have said before, any allegations that we are planning to take hostile action against the Venezuelan government are completely baseless and without fact," McCormack added.

Rumsfeld denied that the Pentagon has considered assassinating the leftist president. "Our department doesn't do that type of thing. It's against the law," he said.

The televangelist's comments outraged Venezuelan authorities, who expressed concern about Chavez's safety when he travels to the UN General Assembly in New York next month.

Bernardo Alvarez, the Venezuelan ambassador in Washington, said: "We are very disappointed with Pat Robertson's statements over the Christian Broadcast Network .... His statement demands the strongest condemnation by the White House."

Alvarez urged the US government to guarantee Chavez safety when he visits the US country in the future.

Speaking from Cuba, Chavez downplayed the remarks, saying he had more important things to deal with.

"I don't know who this person is, and I don't know him. In my view, it is neither here nor there," he said.

"We take care of ourselves when we have to. I am here to talk about life, there are more important things," said the normally effusive Chavez.

Speaking to reporters late Tuesday at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montego Bay, Jamaica, Chavez compared Robertson and other vocal critics of his government to the "rather mad dogs with rabies" that chased after the main characters in "Don Quixote," the classic novel by Miguel de Cervantes.

"When the dogs bark it is because we are working all the time," Chavez said as Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson sat beside him. "The dogs bark ... because we are advancing."

Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel said Venezuela was considering legal action against Robertson for saying US agents should "take out" Chavez.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ali Rodriguez called Robertson's comments a "public crime" that should be investigated by US authorities.

The Venezuelan Embassy in Manila said Robertson's declaration demonstrates the terrorist nature of the American fundamentalist movement, that would seek to assassinate Chávez so as to destabilize Venezuelan democracy and the whole of Latin America.

David Brock, president and CEO of Media Matters for America, a self-described watchdog of conservative media, dubbed Robertson's statement "an irresponsible use of the public airwaves. *AFP, AP, New York Times*

ROBERTSON

CHAVEZ

Iraq close to completing charter amid Sunni fury

BAGHDAD—Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said almost all issues dogging the draft constitution were resolved, but Sunni Arabs warned it was divisive and would be rejected when put to the nation.

As Jaafari expressed confidence Tuesday a suicide bomber blasted a US-Iraqi center in Baquba, killing seven people, including one US soldier and a contractor.

"We have agreed on 151 of the 153 articles in the constitution, including the federal status of the government and the status of regions and provinces," Jaafari said without specifying where the disputes remained.

He said issues concerning human rights, which included women's rights, have also been agreed upon.

"We have made an important stride," the Shiite prime minister said.

In a nail-biting drama, parliament Monday received only an incomplete draft of the country's first post-Saddam constitution, submitted under intense US pressure but without the approval of the Sunni Arab minority.

The charter's writers beat a midnight deadline by just a few minutes to present a constitution that will shape the future of 27 million war-battered Iraqis and could pave the way for a withdrawal of foreign troops.

But several issues remained unresolved, including the mechanism for implementing federalism, the treatment of former regime officials, and how to divide authority between the presidency, parliament and the government.

Negotiations, particularly with dissatisfied Sunni representatives, will continue until Thursday in an effort to bridge remaining differences over the text, which must be approved in an October referendum.

US President George W. Bush urged the Sunnis to embrace the blueprint. "The Sunnis have got to make a choice. Do they want to live in a society that's free, or do they want to live in violence?" he said.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan also appealed Tuesday for "flexibility" among Iraq's rival communities.

Sunni Arabs, the former elite under Saddam whose support is seen as vital in ending the raging insurgency, have warned that the charter in its current form would divide the country.

"The draft ... will divide the society as there are many negatives in it," Sunni negotiator Saleh al-Motlag said. "Ninety-nine percent of Sunnis are unhappy with it. It will fail during the referendum."

Sunnis strongly oppose the charter's proposals on federalism, fearing a decentralized government will cut their share of the nation's vast oil reserves, mainly concentrated in the Kurdish north and Shiite south.

The charter in Article 109 stipulates that "the oil and gas of all the regions belong to the entirety of the Iraqi people," adding that the resources should be controlled by Baghdad and the oil-producing regions.

Sunnis are politically weak, holding few seats in parliament after largely boycotting the January polls, but some Kurds also expressed discontent with the charter.

"The document will be divisive as every Sunni is against it, Kurds are lukewarm in their response, while only the Shiites may have something to take home," said one Kurdish source close to negotiations. AFP

GARDEN OF EDEN
A Marsh Arab paddles her boat down the Glory Canal in the marshlands of southeast Iraq believed to be the site of the original "Garden of Eden" in the Bible. The marshlands are now back to almost 40 percent of their former level.
REUTERS

US wants oil rigs, satellites to spot threats

WASHINGTON—The United States plans to put sensors on oil rigs and weather buoys to spot security threats at sea and may use satellites, unmanned planes and commercial jets to monitor ships as far as 2,000 nautical miles away.

Rear Admiral Joseph Nimmich, a top Coast Guard official, said the steps would be part of efforts to thwart any seaborne attacks by al-Qaida or other militant groups by detecting threats early and "moving the border as far out as possible."

"Right after 9/11, we started realizing that for us to be successful, we have to understand more about what goes on in the maritime world," he told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

The quest for what the Coast Guard calls greater "Maritime Domain Awareness" is included in a new maritime security strategy under review at the White House, which could get approval in six to eight weeks, Nimmich said.

Coast Guard pilot projects have already put radio receivers on privately owned oil rigs and government weather buoys which pick up routine Automatic Identification System (AIS) ship signals that identify vessels and their cargo. *Reuters*

Europeans call off nuke talks with Iran

PARIS—European powers have called off Aug. 31 talks with Iran over its nuclear program, France said on Tuesday, marking a breakdown in two years of negotiations with Tehran to halt its sensitive atomic work.

French foreign ministry spokesperson Jean-Baptiste Mattei said talks on a formal European proposal made earlier this month would not go ahead because Iran had resumed certain nuclear work in breach of a promise to freeze it while talks lasted. Iran shrugged off the cancellation, but Washington voiced US support for the decision.

Britain, France and Germany, acting on behalf of the European Union, put the proposal to Iran in an effort to persuade it to give up nuclear activities the West suspects may be preliminary steps towards making atomic weapons.

"There will, in fact, be no negotiations meeting on Aug. 31 since the Iranians have decided to suspend application of the Paris Agreement," Mattei told a regular news briefing.

Under the Paris Agreement, reached in November 2004, Iran voluntarily suspended all work related to atomic fuel production while negotiating a permanent deal with the EU.

Earlier this month the EU trio offered a package of economic, technical and political measures in exchange for a permanent suspension of Iranian efforts to make nuclear fuel. Iran rejected the proposals, which also envisaged the Aug. 31 talks, and angered the EU and the United States by resuming uranium conversion at its Isfahan plant on Aug. 8.

On Tuesday, senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Hossein Mousavian said Tehran had merely carried out a threat delivered to Britain, Germany and France in Geneva in May. *Reuters*

Thai minister gets injection to enlarge organ

SEVERAL male Cabinet members dared not look Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in the eye after he asked a simple question: "Who did it?"

A source from Tuesday's Cabinet meeting said Thaksin was lightheartedly asking his ministers who had received a silicone injection to enlarge his penis.

"Who did it? Tell me. This has affected the reputation of the Cabinet, because the news went round the world. I don't want the people to think that Cabinet members are obsessed with this kind of thing," the source quoted Thaksin as saying.

Apparently, several male Cabinet members looked down at the floor following the question.

A woman last week said she believed a current Cabinet member had received a silicone injection to enlarge his penis from the same clinic where she had received an injection that caused her face to be disfigured. She has called on the minister to come forward as a defense witness after the clinic sued her for defamation.

The source said that Thaksin then changed his tone and asked Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenratanakul, tongue-in-cheek, whether he could check and find the minister who had his penis enlarged.

"The next room is empty. Can you use it to check the ministers right now?" the source quoted Thaksin as saying.

Deputy Finance Minister Varathep Ratanakorn then joked that former public health minister Sudarat Keyuraphan had volunteered to carry out the check.

Sudarat reportedly blushed following Varathep's comment.

MALIIT NA BAGAY, WAG NYO NANG PALAKIHIN,
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Speaking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Sudarat said that no one would admit it. *The Nation/Asia News Network*

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Israel completes historic pullout

SANUR SETTLEMENT, West Bank—Israel completed its evacuation of parts of the occupied Palestinian territories Tuesday after the last hardline resistance to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's historic pullout crumbled.

A day after the last settlers were cleared out of the Gaza Strip, army and police evacuated the radical settlements of Homesh and Sanur in the northern West Bank, an area Jews say was promised to them by God but regarded by Palestinians as an integral part of their promised future state.

While the security forces needed everything from bulldozers and cranes to bolt-cutters to evict the diehards from Sanur and Homesh, the violent resistance that had been predicted failed to materialize.

The Israeli flag was set alight by protestors holed up in the settlements to express their disgust at Sharon who was, for years, seen as their guiding light but became the first leader to oversee the evacuation of Israeli citizens from Palestinian territory after a 38-year occupation.

While the northern West Bank evacuations represent only a tiny fraction of the 120 settlements that dot the territory captured by Israel from Jordan in 1967, the unprecedented operation has raised international hopes of a genuine breakthrough in the moribund peace process after five years of bloodshed.

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas phoned Sharon and Israeli President Moshe Katsav to congratulate them on the completion of the Gaza pullout while US President George W. Bush praised the Israeli premier for his "courage." Troops were confronted by screaming protestors in the West Bank settlements who set fire to barricades and pelted them with rotten eggs as they entered at daybreak.

"You should be ashamed," one sobbing woman shrieked at a group of police in Sanur. "You've destroyed our lives but we will return here." Troops used metal-cutters to break into a half-built synagogue in Sanur where dozens of protestors had taken refuge behind metal bars and razor wire and carried them out one by one after attempts at mediation failed.

The soldiers also sliced their way through the doors of a former British fortress in the settlement where they removed dozens of people inside.

Some had to be hoisted off the building's rooftop after being herded into a giant container by riot police who had been winched into place by a crane.

Chief of staff Gen. Dan Halutz said the lack of violence was partly thanks to mediation efforts of religious leaders.

"There has been less violence than we thought. One of the reasons was because rabbis worked to calm tensions," he told reporters at Sanur.

In Homesh, police burst through burning barricades and cut through rolls of barbed wire to get into the enclave. They were pelted with rotten eggs and ketchup as they scaled ladders to reach several dozen protestors who had barricaded themselves on the roof of a religious seminary.

The operation in Homesh was declared over around an hour after the last settlers were cleared from Sanur.

"Homesh is finished. Homesh and Sanur have been evacuated," Ben Yishai, deputy commander of police for the disengagement operation, told AFP. The army said that a total of 620 were evacuated from both communities.

Graffiti covered the settlement walls. "Sharon is a traitor," read one slogan, while another proclaimed: "A Jew does not expel a Jew." Such taunts were heard frequently during the evacuation in Gaza where violence was restricted to a handful of hardcore settlements in rare scenes of confrontation between settlers and Israeli soldiers who used to protect them.

AFP

RESCUERS try to get closer to the burning wreckage of the TANS Peru Airlines plane that crashed mid-afternoon Aug. 23 near Pucallpa, Amazonic Peru. ***(See story below)*** AFP

52 survive, 37 killed in Peruvian jetliner crash

LIMA—At least 52 people survived and 37 were killed when a jetliner crashed during a storm only seconds from landing in Peru's Amazon basin, officials said as rescue efforts were halted overnight at the rugged crash site.

"There are still a lot of bodies to recover," district attorney Cesar Arroyo told reporters late Monday. He said between 37 and 40 bodies had been found.

"We've halted rescue efforts because its dark, muddy and difficult at the crash site," he added. We'll finish the rescue tomorrow."

"Among the survivors are 50 passengers and two crew members," TANS Peru airline company spokesperson Jorge Belevan said, while allowing that others may still be alive.

"These people have been contacted and all of them are alive," he said, adding that he did not rule out discovering more survivors among the 92 passengers and eight crew members aboard TANS Flight 204 from Lima.

Belevan said that among the 16 foreigners on the flight, five Americans who belong to a single family and two Italians had survived. He had no information on the others.

Flight 204 listed 11 Americans, two Italians, an Australian, a Spaniard and a Colombian. All the other passengers and crew were Peruvian.

The Boeing 737-200 jet crashed during a storm near the Amazonian rain forest city of Pucallpa, 840 km northeast of Lima.

The aircraft was less than five km from the airport when it crashed near a road at 3:06 p.m. (2006 GMT), a control tower official said.

He said a violent storm with fierce winds had broken out as the plane prepared for landing.

A witness said the plane crashed in a swampy jungle and broke in two.

A Radio Programs of Peru (RPP) reporter at the crash site said he saw several dead bodies, including children and babies.

Hospital official Bertha Garcia said the local hospital had received five bodies and 23 injured.

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo said all necessary assistance was being rushed to survivors and rescue workers, adding that an investigation of the crash has already begun.

"I am following minute by minute the unfolding of this tragic accident," he said, visibly upset.

TRANS spokesperson Belevan told reporters, "Preliminary information shows that the accident was caused by a crosswind at the moment of landing. Although the pilots are as skilled as they can be, unfortunately, the plane was lost." Survivor Tomas Ruiz told reporters the plane was tossed around in the storm.

"With 10 minutes left for us to land in Pucallpa we noticed the plane was moving too much because of the weather," he said.

Nursing a burned hand, survivor William Zea told RPP: "The plane had problems and we dropped." His wife, who was not identified, also survived.

AFP

ASHAMED OF YOUR DARK UNDER-ARMS?
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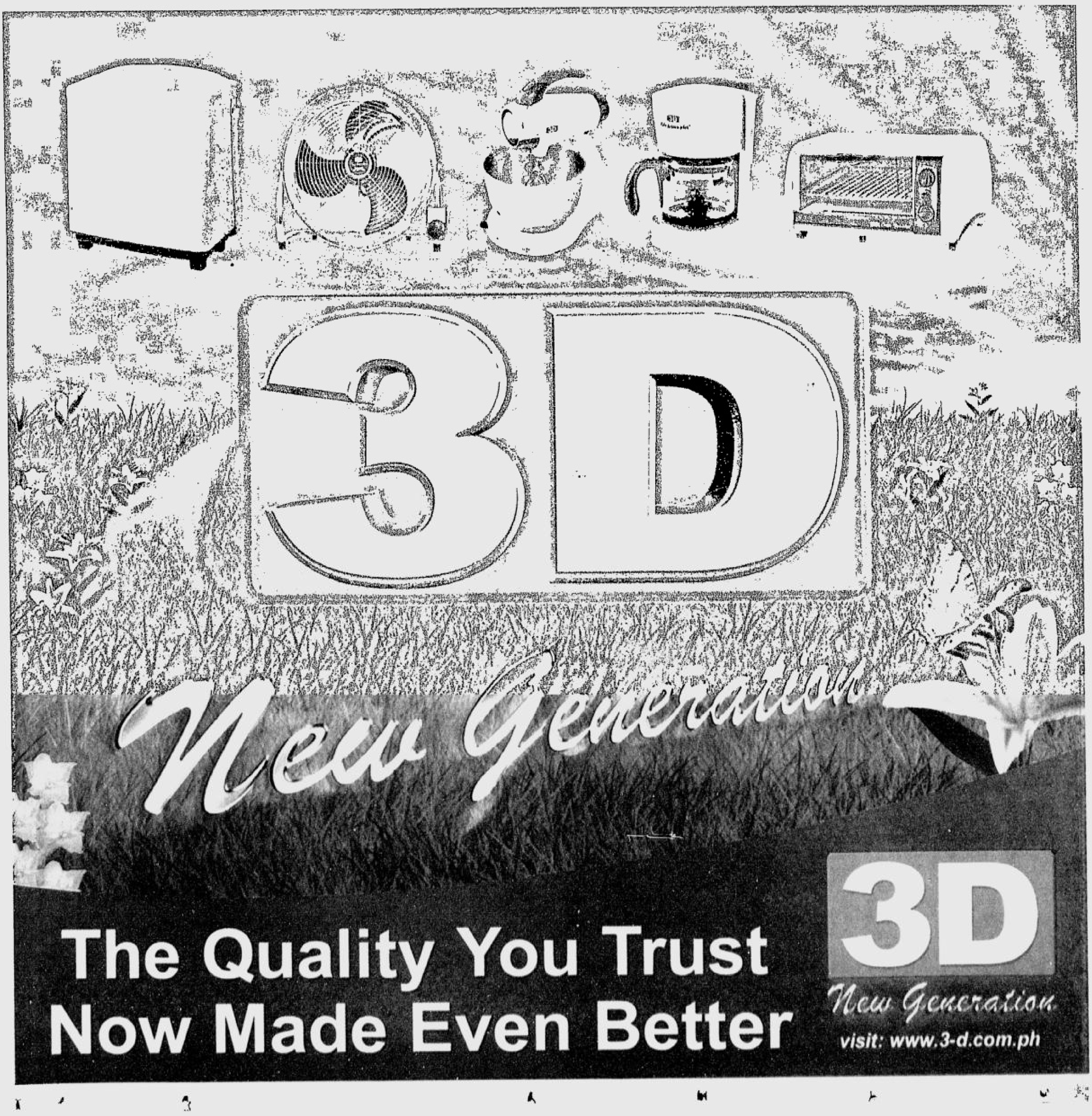

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Conservation

EDITORIAL

THE ARROYO administration should drop the idea of asking Congress for emergency powers to cope with the energy crisis. Our past experience with the use—or abuse—of emergency powers has not been a happy one. And that includes the extraordinary powers granted to then President Fidel Ramos in the early 1990s, which helped solve the long, daily power blackouts but also got us stuck with high power charges, courtesy of the independent power producers that mushroomed during his presidency.

The administration should abandon, in particular, its plan to seek Congress' authority to ration oil products. Rationing didn't work during martial law as some enterprising individuals just reproduced the ration coupons to get around the restrictions or to earn a fast buck, and there is no reason to think it will work this time around. Besides the problem now, as some businessmen have pointed out, is not a scarcity of supply but a growing demand worldwide that has sent oil prices skyrocketing to record highs, with the peak seemingly nowhere in sight yet.

Instead, the government should go full steam ahead with its energy conservation program which it unveiled soon after oil prices soared to $67.10 per barrel earlier this month. The program may not be as comprehensive as some people would wish it to be, but if the government would just do what Malacañang said it would do, that would be a good beginning in cushioning the impact of the looming crisis.

Some of the things government offices have been ordered to do are commonsense measures to cut down electric consumption, like using fluorescent lamps instead of incandescent bulbs, keeping air-conditioning units on for shorter periods, etc. And compliance is monitored and ensured by setting a target reduction in electric consumption of 10 percent.

Some measures, however, ought to be attended with as much fanfare as the public exhibition of suspects in sensational crimes. For instance, SUVs and other gas-guzzling luxury vehicles being used by public officials should be sold at a public auction. Then government should enforce the prohibition of the use of its vehicles for private purposes, like going to market or having a picnic. These would show that the administration is really serious not only about energy conservation but also about observing austerity at a time when a financial crisis also threatens to deliver a double whammy. Such callous displays of ostentation and profligacy have no place in a government that demands sacrifices of its citizens to reduce its huge debt and shore up its international reserves amid rising oil prices.

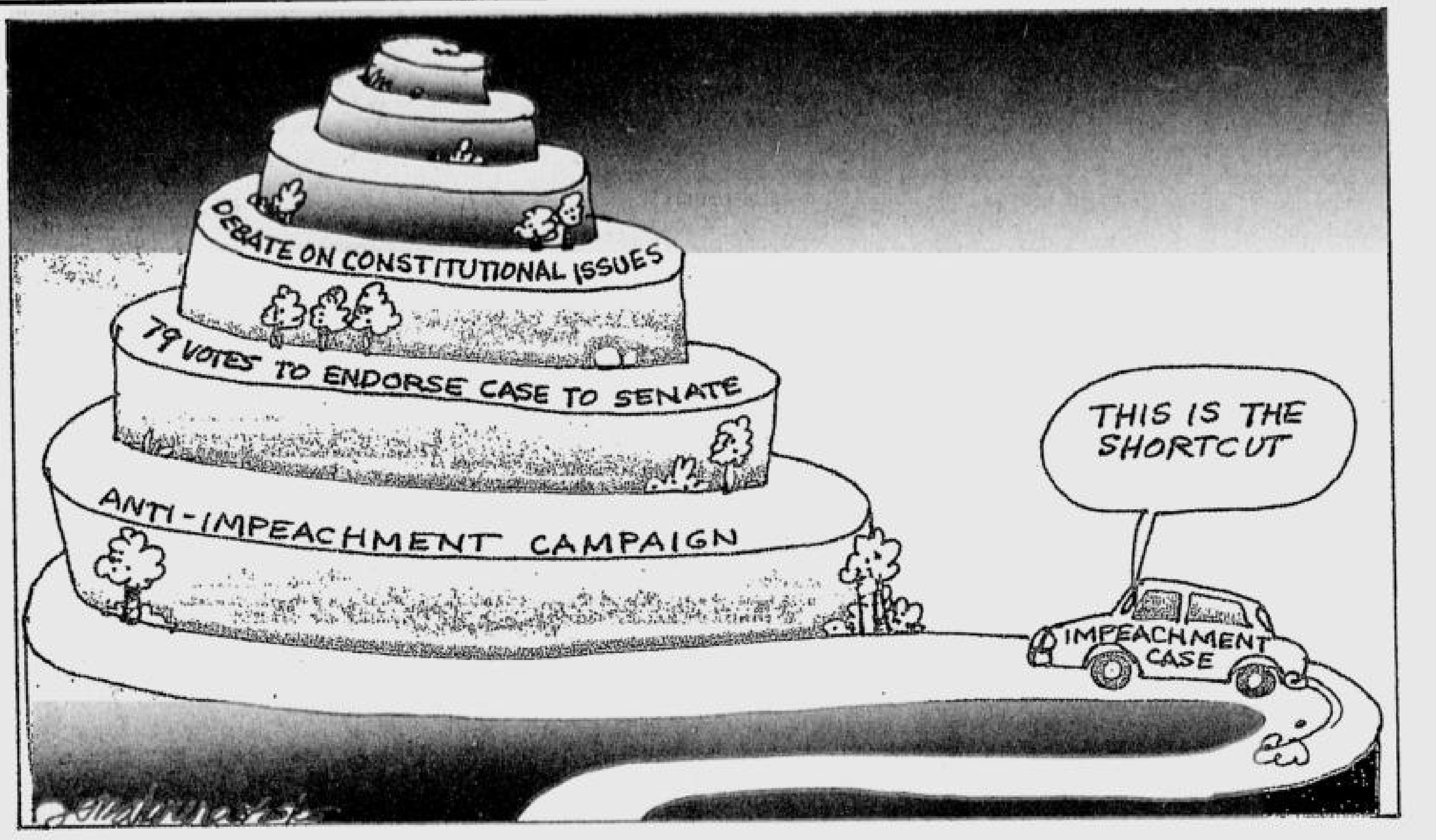
Those who wish to flaunt their wealth and wastefulness should be made to pay heavily for it. This will require a review and a steep upward adjustment of the import tariffs on luxury vehicles, particularly the heavier models.

And whatever happened to the bus reduction scheme that the Metro Manila Development Authority has been talking about for so long? On any given day, it is clear to see that there are just too many buses out there in the streets of the metropolis, most of them nearly empty. These buses are not only wasting the gas that they consume, but also the additional gas that other vehicles use on account of the heavier traffic. When people see that there is just enough buses to serve commuters without causing too much discomfort, they will realize that an energy conservation program is really in place.

In these times of soaring oil prices, it is almost unnecessary for the government to call on the people to save on energy. More than any appeals for cooperation, their electric bills and the cost of LPG bring home that message most forcefully. What they would appreciate more is to be taught some other ways of saving on power that they may not know yet.

Without any prodding from the government, oil consumption already declined by 8.6 percent during the first half of the year. Any further cuts would probably require some government intervention, by way of regulations or incentives for the use of alternative fuels like ethanol or co-co-diesel or alternative energy sources like solar power.

An extensive oil-substitution program will take some time, probably years when it comes to harnessing some alternative energy sources. But most of the conservation measures the administration has identified can be done at once. There is no excuse to dilly-dally on this program.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79 VOTES TO ENDORSE CASE TO SENATE
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THIS IS THE SHORTCUT
IMPEACHMENT CASE

Governance by bile

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHY does Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña remind one of the late, unlamented Soviet dictator Nikita Khruschev?

No, it's not Nikita Sergeyevich's vodka-guzzling. Compared to this Ukrainian-born Russian metalworker's intake, the mayor's intake is a piker. And hasn't he been on the wagon?

Drinking triggered Khruschev's ouster. That a souse's had his finger on the triggers of nuclear missiles in Cuba scared the Politburo members witless. After they arrested Stalin's successor, they threw away the key to his *dacha*. Up to his death, seven years later, Nikita smudged his role in Stalin's murders.

Osmeña denies a hand in Cebu's *esquadrones de la muerte*. These death squads surfaced after Osmeña announced last December that cops who will "permanently disable any criminal" will get P20,000-bounties. The Catholic Church, lawyers and human rights groups protested "murder with a wink."

Since then, bonneted gunmen on motorbikes have killed 88 people. Most victims had police records. Some served time, but none for crimes that carried death penalties. No crime lord has been bagged. As expected, the police are clueless.

"Death squads shield sponsors from liability," notes the United Nations Working Group on the *desaparecidos* (the disappeared). "An illusion of spontaneous violence provides plausible deniability."

But is "deniability" unraveling with Victim No. 88? Alemar Luna fired and hit one of his assassins. Thereafter, Osmeña's security man and favorite police gunslinger—SPO1 Adonis Dumpit—disappeared.

Like Comelec's Virgilio Garcillano, Dumpit now prefers to stay in Davao Oriental(?). Necklaced with salvaging charges, the cop says he likes rural life. Osmeña isn't eager to get his gunman back, any more than Khruschev wanted Lavrenti Beria around him. Cebu newspapers say gunshot wounds take time to heal.

Khruschev was a boor. As the Soviet Union's premier, he startled the 1960 UN General Assembly when he banged his shoe on a desk and screamed at Philippine Sen. Lorenzo Sumulong: *kholuj stavelimik imperializna*. (Translation: "jerk, stooge and lackey of imperialism.")

"We're going to make imperialists dance like fishes in a sauce pan," Kruschev told The New York Times. At a Kremlin reception, he fumed at Western diplomats: "We will bury you."

Osmeña won't win the "Mr. Congeniality" award either. "Land grabber," he fumed at Talisay Mayor Eduardo Gullas. "We will beggar you." Gullas belatedly claimed 54 out of Cebu City's 295-hectare South Reclamation Project. This ill-advised claim delayed the issuance of titles.

That left Cebu City twisting in the wind with a P600-million annual bill, in interest alone, for the SRP yen-loan. That's over a quarter of City Hall's budget. Devaluation almost tripled repayments for a loan Osmeña had bragged "Cebuanos wouldn't pay a single centavo for."

For over a decade, Osmeña blacked out any mention of his loans—until the hemorrhage erupted. Today, the loan is crippling basic services. Cebu tops all local governments in liabilities, the latest Audit Commission report reveals.

"One of his legacies will be strapping every man, woman and child, who lives within city limits, with the country's biggest per capita debt repayment burden," noted Cebu Daily News.

Like Khruschev, Osmeña relishes casting threats around and inflicting pain as policy instruments. He lashes out at those who think differently—in the Integrated Bar, university think tanks, business groups or the press.

He even lights into innocent by-standers, as his brawl with Gullas showed: He ejected Talisay vendors from Cebu's Carbon market. He fired an exemplary employee of 17 years from his traffic office. Reason: the man lived in Talisay. He has questioned, before the Court of Appeals, the law (RA 8979) elevating Talisay into a city.

The national government's P7.6 billion six-lane South Coastal Road is a major economic artery. But it passes Talisay. Osmeña bars entry to the coastal road, thus disrupting traffic, classes, businesses for thousands. He issues passes for a road his city does not own.

With pastoral visits to southern parishes snarled, Sun Star Daily asked Cardinal Ricardo Vidal: "Didn't you get a pass, Your Eminence?" The prelate replied: "I'll use that road only when it is open to all."

Like Khruschev, Osmeña swears by an eye-for-an-eye policy: use force, so opposition capitulates. With that approach, Mahatma Gandhi once said, all would end up blind.

"Force is enveloped in a paradox," a Royal Canadian Mounted Police guide on negotiation noted. "You cannot 'talk it out' after you've tried to 'take them out.'"

The wisest leaders make it easy for opponents to agree. They make ample use of third-party intermediaries. "Face-saving lies at the heart of the negotiations."

Whether responsible for a nation, like Khruschev, or a city, like Osmeña, the leader must remember: the desired outcome is not victory but mutual satisfaction. Force is only used to educate, not to smash.

"The quiet revolution in local government is [the] crafting of partnership-based models," the World Bank notes. Governance by bile doesn't help cities confronted by exploding demands from growing numbers of indigents.

Centuries back, the brilliant military strategist Sun Tzu wrote: "The best general is the one who never fights." In today's lingo, that can be rewritten as: "The best crisis manager is the one who never assaults." But what if the leader's spleen is locked into overdrive?

* * *

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The last word (Rene Jarque's letter)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(Rene Jarque wrote this letter last year. I have changed nothing in it except the paragraphing and a word here and there. It's not for West Pointers alone to heed.)

DEAR fellow West Pointers,

The Armed Forces of the Philippines once again is at a crossroad following the cases of [Major] General (Carlos) Garcia and Colonel (George) Rabusa. How this will play out will determine the seriousness, direction and tempo of eradicating corruption in the military and promoting professionalism in the ranks. We have known the rottenness of the system all along and how the culture in the AFP was not and is not conducive to professional growth and honest conduct. It was never reflective of the Academy's motto, "Duty, Honor, Country."

Some of us gave it a chance, found it unwieldy and incorrigible and left. Some stuck with the system and played it out only to be sucked into the vortex of corruption and unprofessional conduct. At one time when I was at the Department of National Defense, I told General (Narciso) Abaya, "Sir, I am sure that I can fulfill the Duty and Country part of the motto but certainly the Honor part is very difficult to do." I was trying my best to be as professional and as patriotic as I could be, but I could never be honest given the extent of the graft and corruption in the AFP. And that was, I believe, unacceptable to my sense of honor and integrity. Hence, I left.

I have been called many names, reviled and hated by many officers for my intransigent stand against corruption in the Armed Forces ever since I was a lieutenant. I was branded a rebel and an unprofessional officer. I was called a liar in public by a former Chief of Staff. Some of you may have also hated my guts for being so stubborn and for being part of the opposition. I was not and am not being stubborn for the sake of stubbornness. I am stubborn because I believe in the righteousness of the cause. It was and it is the right advocacy, and an honest one. The lives of thousands of soldiers and their families depend on this cause. The future of our country depends on whether this advocacy will win in the end. While many of us turned our eyes away and covered our ears, I believed that someone had to play the "bad guy" to make sure that the message was not lost.

I have a favorite story which we printed in the Army Journal when I was its editor:

A wise old philosopher went to the village to preach the good news. He proclaimed his news loudly but no one would listen. Time passed and he continued to preach even louder but still no one listened. One day, a child asked, "Mister, why are you preaching even louder, don't you see it's pointless? No one is listening." The philosopher replied, "My child, at first I thought I could change them and so preached loudly. But now I am preaching even more loudly so **they** don't change me."

Yes, we have all been part of the system and by our action or inaction, we have all been party to unprofessional conduct and corruption in the AFP. One way or another, we have taken advantage of the system. You all know your indiscretions as I know mine. There was no choice then, there was no other way if one wanted to survive and pursue a "progressive military career." But if a progressive military career means a regressive character and dishonor, well, many of us found that unacceptable and the only option was to leave the service.

I love being a soldier, being with the men and fighting for our country. But it cannot be at the sacrifice of honor. What is the meaning of fighting for your country when the chain of command consists of thieves and looters, insensitive to the welfare of the soldiers and their poor families? What is the meaning of dying for your country when you know that the government and the politicians are apathetic toward the people and the so-called rebels or terrorists we are killing and even torturing are just protecting their lives and their dignity, when they are just trying to survive? What good is fighting for the country when the rebels are right that this country is governed by a callous elite, an abusive military and a corrupt government?

To me, there never was, there never is, and there never will be honor in killing desperate men—men who have found no other way out of their poverty and suffering but to join the rebels because the leaders they have chosen to lead them and the soldiers who are supposed to fight for them, are not doing their duty. For after all, aren't the soldiers the protectors and defenders of the people?

I appeal to your sense of Duty, Honor, Country in saying that we must do something as a West Point Society, as an association of honorable men. The least we can do is make a public denouncement of the corruption in the Armed Forces and appeal for the reform that has long been needed in the AFP. We should tell General Narciso Abaya, West Point '71, that the right thing to do is the honorable thing. Covering up, spinning stories and whitewashing are not honorable. This entails a great risk especially in our friendships and camaraderie, but we must be comrades blinded by Duty, Honor, Country. Somehow, we have to take a stand and make a choice or live a lie within ourselves as long as we live.

Duty, Honor, Country, my fellow West Pointers.

(Signed) Rene Jarque, Class of 1986.

Puzzlers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME House members last Tuesday expressed some degree of puzzlement over the opinion expressed by Fr. Joaquin Bernas in this space last Monday.

Fr. Bernas argued thus: While the Constitution prohibits the initiation of more than one "impeachment proceeding," it "does not necessarily prohibit more than one complaint." In fact, multiple complaints are prohibited only if they require more than "one proceeding." In the current controversy, the "amended complaint" and the Lopez complaint are nothing more than "bills of particulars" to accompany the Lozano complaint, inasmuch as they both elaborate on the one constitutional offense of "betrayal of public trust." For constitutional purposes, therefore, what is being initiated is only "one proceeding involving one complaint, but with an extended bill of particulars."

The lawmakers said Fr. Bernas' opinion appeared to be contrary to his position as amicus curia in Francisco Jr. vs the House of Representatives two years ago.

* * *

Representatives Luis Villafuerte, Arthur Defensor and Salacnib Baterina pointed out to this columnist that in the 2003 Supreme Court case, Fr. Bernas argued that when Section 3 (5) says, "No impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year," it means that no second verified complaint may be accepted and referred to the Committee on Justice for action."

The congressmen's opinion, of course, is founded on the argument that the amended complaint is a new complaint, separate from the first one, i.e., the Lozano complaint. Therefore, the amended complaint constitutes a second complaint filed within a year, which the Constitution prohibits. As Defensor put it, "I've studied law since 1959 and up to now, never have I encountered the argument that a second complaint constitutes merely a 'bill of particulars.'" Defensor said this latter phrase can only relate to an action by the accused for clarification and not to another complaint. And so the debate continues in the halls of Congress and in the media.

* * *

Here's another puzzler. I have always admired Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio for fearlessly speaking out his mind on crucial issues in the prosecution of former President Estrada. I expressed my admiration for him some months back and I don't mind saying it again here. So I find it disturbing that he has threatened to resign or withdraw from the plunder case against Estrada, should the latter be granted bail or released on recognizance by the Sandiganbayan. Villa-Ignacio was doubtless referring to recent developments. First was the report on Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Miriam Defensor saying they are agreeable to bail for Estrada or his release on recognizance. Then there's the proposal by religious leader Mike Velarde for the administration and Estrada to reconcile and form a coalition government. Implied here is a more liberal treatment of Erap.

* * *

Villa-Ignacio opposed the proposed bail grant, saying that if this was intended, the government should have excluded "plunder" from the charges against Estrada and limited them to "malicious mischief." He also underscored the possible adverse legal implication of such moves on the plunder cases against Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is now detained in Camp Crame. He also decried that the government might as well give up its heightened campaign against corruption, if ad hoc measures, such as bail and recognizance, would be allowed in plunder cases. Indeed, many citizens cannot understand why legal luminaries are advocating bail for an accused in a plunder case.

* * *

On the anti-corruption campaign, I had a recent chat with Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo. He expressed elation over the results of the "2005 SWS Survey of Enterprises on Corruption." Conducted in partnership with the Makati Business Club, the survey showed his agency slowly gaining the trust of the people. Marcelo noted that the survey revealed a "very high, and non-diminishing degree of corruption in the public sector (though not the same in all agencies), and a medium, but nonetheless serious, degree of corruption in the private sector, which obviously needs to clean its own house as well." But he also noted that the SWS survey showed that "enterprise managers are increasingly willing to participate, both financially and personally, in anti-corruption efforts." An earlier survey finding led to the launching by the private sector of the Coalition Against Corruption a year ago.

* * *

Marcelo also noted that among the government agencies surveyed on "net sincerity" in fighting corruption, the Office of the Ombudsman came out the most trusted (24 percent) "to address complaints of corruption properly" (the next most trusted were city/municipal governments at 15 percent). He pointed out that many businessmen covered by the survey stressed that in their transactions (involving local government permits/licenses and payment of taxes) from years 2000 to 2005, the incidence of bribery-seeking went down. Also on the issue of "net sincerity," the Ombudsman's office was classified as "moderate." The Office of the President, Commission on Audit, PCGG, the trial courts and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission were "mediocre." Rated as "very good" were the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange. The Supreme Court, Department of Health, and barangay governments were classified as "good."

For Ombudsman Marcelo, the fight against corruption has a long way to go, but the perception that his office is sincerely inching its way up is consoling enough at this point. He and Villa-Ignacio need all the support.

Vinoba Bhave

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE YEAR was 1916. A young man was visiting India's holy city of Benares to contemplate the crossroads before him.

Should he go to the Himalayas and live as a religious hermit immersed in silence and prayer? Or should he take the road to West Bengal and join the freedom movement that was fighting the British colonizers?

Twenty-year-old Vinoba Bhave was intensely drawn to both ways…

Before I continue, let me say that the names of the Ramon Magsaysay Awardees for 2005 have been announced. The RM Awards Foundation (RMAF) will honor these exemplary Asians on Aug. 31. Included in this week's RMAF to-do is the launching of the second volume of Great Men and Women of Asia (GMWA). This book project is RMAF's way of popularizing the lives of past RM awardees who, through their work and example, made an impact on the lives of many Asians.

We are in search of models, aren't we?

I wrote four of the stories in last year's first volume. This year, because of time constraints, I agreed to do just one. I picked the much-revered Vinoba Bhave, recipient of the first RM Award for Community Leadership in 1958.

To continue… Bhave had already completed two years of college and was well-versed in the ancient philosophies and scriptures. Gifted with a sharp mind, Bhave excelled in mathematics and was interested in higher learning.

But Bhave had also a thirst that all the worldly knowledge he had acquired could not quench. There was a fire in his soul that would not stop burning.

While in that state of unease in the holy city, Bhave read about the speech delivered by Mahatma Gandhi. Something in Bhave stirred. He wrote a letter to Gandhi, the holy man in homespun loin cloth who was leading a *satyagraha* (non-violent) movement and would later become the leading voice and symbol of India's struggle for independence from the British raj.

The meeting with Gandhi changed the course of Bhave's life. He would later recall: "Providence took me to Gandhi and I found in him not only the peace of the Himalayas but also the burning fervor of resolution, typical of Bengal. I said to myself that both of my desires had been fulfilled."

Bhave joined Gandhi in his *ashram* (a religious community which was also the hub of political and social activity for Gandhi's followers). Bhave learned at Gandhi's feet and internalized his vision. Praying, fasting, teaching and studying Hindu scriptures, spinning, leading protests—these were some of the non-violent activities of Gandhi's unarmed army. Imprisonment only strengthened their resolve to continue the freedom movement.

There was little doubt that Bhave would be Gandhi's spiritual successor. Indeed, after the bloody birth of India as a new nation in 1947 (which was followed by national turmoil) and Gandhi's assassination in 1948, Bhave emerged to bring the Gandhian revolution a step further into another realm.

Vinayak Bhave, whom Gandhi nicknamed Vinoba, was born in 1895 into a high-ranking Brahmin family in Gagode Village south of Bombay. After Gandhi's death, Bhave vowed to carry on Gandhi's dream of *sarvodaya*, or a non-violent society dedicated to "the welfare of all."

Bhave was the father of the *bhoodan* (land gift) movement that spread in the 1950s and took the Indian countryside by storm.

Bhave led peace treks around India to spread the *sarvodaya* spirit and to soothe the wounds of a divided nation. Freedom from the British had resulted in two nations—India and Pakistan. Ethnic strife, especially among Hindus and Muslims, further pushed the populace into more turbulence.

Bhave saw that independence from foreign domination did not necessarily result in freedom from want and oppression. The huge majority of the rural poor did not have land to till. What would they live on?

While visiting a village in Telangana (now Andrha Pradesh) in 1951, Bhave received an appeal from landless peasants. Having nothing to give, Bhave turned to the village to ask whether there was anyone who had land to spare. A prosperous landowner stepped forward and offered a hundred acres.

That act of generosity opened up the road ahead. It inspired Bhave to continue his journey, traveling on foot from village to village, asking people if they had land to share with the poor. Thus was born the so-called *bhoodan* (land gift) movement.

Bhave's efforts met with extraordinary enthusiasm. His journey of seven weeks yielded an initial 1,200 acres. His fellow workers gathered 100,000 acres. By 1954 the movement had totaled 2.5 million acres, far exceeding government land reform efforts.

Bhave was not easily impressed by his own success. All that land and all that generosity, were not going to solve all of the problems of the Indian people. "We do not aim at doing mere acts of kindness," Bhave wrote, "but at creating a Kingdom of Kindness." He taught that more important than the gift was the spirit behind the gift, that is, the spiritual revolution that was being waged. Bhave was indeed a holy teacher and he deserved being called *acharya* by his followers.

In no time, the land-gift movement reached a new phase. Bhave began to seek out whole villages willing to commit to the ideals of *sarvodaya*. And so the *gramdan* (village gift) movement was begun.

For 13 years Bhave walked throughout India. Barely 90 pounds and sometimes suffering from ulcers and malaria, the man in a home-spun dhoti continued to brave the sometimes turbulent countryside to reach out to both the haves and the have-nots. "All revolutions," Bhave said, "are spiritual at the source. All my activities have the sole purpose of achieving a union of hearts."

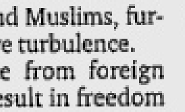
There's more…

Published by Anvil, GMWA I and II are available in bookstores and RMAF.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Convened and reconvened?



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON JAN. 7 and 8, 1984, the Congress of the Filipino People (Kompil) was held to address a pressing issue: What course of action should the opposition take with regard to the upcoming Batasan elections? Everyone said their piece, including Jose Ma. Sison who sent a message.

Joma advocated boycotting the elections. Many disagreed. A compromise was painfully reached: participation under certain conditions. The conditions were agreed upon by balloting. The Kompil had succeeded in revealing a way for diverse groups to come up with a common position.

Marcos, of course, rejected the conditions, which caused a flurry of renewed debates among the opposition. Lorenzo Tañada, Jose Diokno and Butz Aquino called for a boycott, citing the same arguments of the 1978 and 1981 boycott movements. The boycott group eventually formed an umbrella organization, CORD, which included former Senators Jovito Salonga and Raul Manglapus and former President Diosdado Macapagal.

Then the widow spoke. Cory Aquino was for participation, even though she had no illusions about the outcome of the polls. In February 1984, Cardinal Sin called for participation, too.

Unido decided to participate in the election, as did the regional parties, such as PDP-Laban, which felt that the boycott campaigns in the past had actually hurt the opposition. Another organization was revived to help guard against fraud: the National Movement for Free Elections. For the first time, the opposition would fight fraud with organized vigilance.

The boycott failed. The turnout was high and, for once, an organized group existed to catalogue and inform the public of the government's electoral dirty tricks. The opposition took almost a third of the seats in parliament, after a heavy toll inflicted by the administration's massive cheating.

In the public mind, the opposition had proven its strength. It was time to plan for bigger things. Around the time of the May 14 elections, a Jesuit and businessmen's group began deliberating again on the contingencies should Marcos die. This group called themselves the "Facilitators." They finally decided on a way to find a candidate quickly. They called it the "fast-track system." Its aim: to avoid the inevitable bickering and internecine strife sure to attend the selection of a common presidential candidate should elections be suddenly called.

Emmanuel Soriano, Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, Ricardo Lopa, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, and Ramon del Rosario Jr., all members of Manindigan!, were the architects of this process. They met with the Convenor Group, composed of Tañada (representing the "left of center"), Jaime Ongpin (representing moderates), and Cory Aquino, the "symbol of unity."

On Nov. 13, 1984, the two groups came up with a list of "potential standard bearers": Butz Aquino, Jose Diokno, Teofisto Guingona, Eva Kalaw, Salvador Laurel, Raul Manglapus, Ramon Mitra, Ambrosio Padilla, Aquilino Pimentel, Rafael Salas and Jovito Salonga. A month later, these people met with the Facilitators and the Convenor Group, and they agreed to sign a Declaration of Unity. Kalaw and Laurel abstained.

Laurel did not sign because of the anti-US bases line in the declaration. He did not think the cause of freedom needed to add to its enemies. He also offered an alternative method for selecting a united opposition's champion, one that sidestepped the cause-oriented groups, relying purely on the politicians. His group called itself the National Unification Committee or NUC.

The Convenor's Group and the potential standard bearers, in an agreement signed on Jan. 2, chose a system in which the potential candidates would chose, by secret balloting and simple majority vote, the standard bearer from among themselves. They committed themselves to look for a more creative method, but in the meantime that would do.

The NUC offered a compromise solution, whereby the cause-oriented groups would be entitled to a 30-percent representation in the convention that would choose the standard bearer. It invited the Convenor's Group to a meeting. The group declined, sending Mitra to read a message politely explaining that it could not abandon the fast-track system.

But the negotiations went on—in time-honored political fashion—with a continuing exchange of proposals and counter-proposals. They came to a tentative agreement on the actual selection of a candidate, save for one loose end: what to do about Manglapus and Salas who were abroad.

But a common position with regard to the US bases remained elusive. The original draft was written by Salonga: the opposition would "comply with the US-RP Military Bases Agreement of 1947… which will expire in 1991, and oppose the continued existence of foreign military facilities in the Philippines. No military bases should thereafter be allowed."

Laurel opposed the draft. He was open to the renewal of the bases agreement, subject to a plebiscite. Diokno was dead-set against recognizing the validity of the bases agreement altogether. And so the debate went on until, finally, on Nov. 21, 1985, an agreement was reached and the platform approved. The bases provision finally read, "Consistent with our rights and duties under international law and the sovereign rights of our people, foreign military bases on Philippine territory must be removed and no foreign military bases shall be thereafter allowed."

The opposition was almost whole. The success of the NUC-Convenor negotiations proved the resilience of the old politicians who would finally agree to anything for the sake of unity and political effectiveness, because ultimately words meant nothing to them. Hence, they would survive into the era and the new political forces would die. In politics, the finicky finish last.

Busted

YOUNG BLOOD

JA

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I WAS busted. It was the first time (and perhaps the last) I risked expressing my feelings, and I was sent painfully crashing back to reality by the experience. It is not that he didn't have a good reason not to return my feelings for him. I do understand his point: hearing someone say that she loves you, especially if she is someone you don't know at all, can definitely freak you out.

I don't want to call myself pathetic, but I managed to sustain my feelings for him for seven years, ever since the time I met him. We're not really strangers to each other. At least, we had seen each other and we knew each other's name. It just happened that I knew a great deal more about him than he did about me.

Friends say that I was hasty in saying what I felt for him was love. After all, it was his intelligence that first drew me to him. Secondly, he had the ambition—no, drive—to succeed. Of course, there was the small factor that he offered security. And all in all, he had practically everything I was looking for in a mate. So, in my friends' estimation, it wasn't love at all. I simply didn't give the politically correct answer.

They say that if someone asks you why you love a person, you're not supposed to mention his positive qualities—not his looks, his status, what he has to offer and, least of all, the capability of his mind for higher level thinking. You love him simply because you love him. You love him because it's him.

I don't know how to explain to them that when you love, you don't love the entirety of the person all at once. You start loving the things that made you like him in the first place—and they may be as petty and shallow as his face, his car or his mind. Then, you start building on that and you begin to love his other "attributes"—until you finally learn to love the "whole" of him. You can't love someone without starting from loving something little and, yes, petty about him.

To say "I love him simply because I love him; it's him" would be the final answer. But there are initial answers before you reach this point.

I started loving him because of his intelligence, because of his drive, because of the way he was able to reach for his dreams—and yes, I loved him because it's him.

But he couldn't return my love, because he didn't know me "that much." Oookay.

My well-meaning friends have advised me time and again to forget him. But perhaps it's true what they say about the wisest of men being the most foolish in love. He was more or less a part of me for seven long years and it's not easy to remove something from your system in the wink of an eye.

Now I tell myself that I'll never risk my heart like that again. I cannot stand a second heartbreak. Actually, making the first move and being honest like that wasn't even my kind of thing. I did it because I didn't want to wake up one day to realize I was dying without telling him about it. All right, so perhaps I should have thought about it a million times more, and probably pondered the best way and the perfect time to say it. Sometimes I ask myself how things would have turned out had I waited a little more and probably given him more time to know me, and possibly, like me.

Now, we've stopped being comfortable buddies. We used to e-mail each other and share stories. I know he's busy now, but I can't help but think that he's just using it as an excuse to cover up an awkward situation.

I don't regret anything. What would I get crying over spilled milk? That's how I try to view things now. As one friend said, at least I told him. The greatest regret comes when you are not able to tell him.

I didn't lose anything—well, probably a bit of my pride. But it's something I can get back. I'm the same old person, just a little wiser now from the experience.

I have already gotten over the fact that I was busted and rejected. I have yet to get over him. Like I said, he's "Mr. Ideal Guy." But most of the time, you don't get the ideal or the perfect, you go for the right thing or person.

I have yet to meet the man who could inspire and move me the way he moved and inspired me. Or perhaps, I just don't notice him because all my attentions are focused on someone else. This is what my friends have been telling me.

I'm not closing my heart to other possibilities. I'm just afraid that I wouldn't be fair to the next guy who comes along because he just might end up as "Mr. Second Best." It's a long, uphill climb to closure.

I have to be honest and say that yes, there is still some small seed of hope in my heart that eventually he will learn to love me. But I'm not going to waste the rest of my life banking on that. I know when to quit and give up.

It will come. It will come. Yes, I'm probably a sucker for pain and self-inflicted torture. I still enjoy the bittersweet feeling the whole experience of loving him gives me. Yes, it's love, despite what they say. If he would only give me a chance, I'd like to show him how much he means to me. But when the time comes that I need to let his memory go, I will find a way.

That's how life goes.

JA, 22, teaches in a state university.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Liars' debts

"All people incur debts, but it does not mean that if you have debts you cannot tell the truth."

—Whistle-blower Michaelangelo Zuce on Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's highlighting of his debts and his habitual absenteeism from work

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Environmental crisis in rural areas far graver than in cities

THIS is in reaction to the letter of Miguel Rocha. (PDI, 8/16/05) Regretfully, I have to disagree with him—the environment is not in our hands. His recommendations are 'audable, but they only cover half of the story, which is the environmental problem in the urban areas. Unfortunately, the reality in the rural areas is much more depressing, verging on a crisis.

Aggressive mining explorations and operations are encroaching on already protected lands. Ancestral domains of indigenous peoples (which are forested lands) and the coastal areas are threatened by over-fishing and illegal practices. Ironically, the logging ban will be lifted in critical areas (Quezon and Aurora) in order to "promote the safety of the people." The situation is worsened by an environment secretary who is much more comfortable with playing politics, and a Speaker who is willing to sell the country's national patrimony. In his speech last June 17, 2005 (this is still available in audio webcast—http://clients.westminster-digital.co.uk/minesite/microsite/index.aspx), Speaker Jose de Venecia gloated before international investors about the impending Charter change which, he said, will touch on economic provisions to allow for a 100-percent foreign ownership of our natural resources.

Then you have former Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and current Trade Secretary Peter Favila, going full steam in their international road show, enticing mining investors to come here and dig up the metals, to hell with the forest lands and the human rights of indigenous peoples.

To put icing on the cake, Australia has pledged millions of dollars to "aid" our land reform program, as an incentive for mining operations—a subtle way of saying: "We'll help you organize your house, so we can get to your kitchen easier and raid your fridge of your food." I say, Mr. Rocha, I will do my best to follow your proposals, but I will double my effort in challenging this government's intent to offer our environment and natural resources on wholesale prices.

The last thing I want is to find myself unable to explain to my son, in 2025, why he can't find a firefly just because this present generation was unable to protect the environment from the short-sighted economic and political agenda of this administration.

—JAYBEE GARGANERA,
coordinator,
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA) 59 C. Salvador St.,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Start the reforms by letting out the truth

IT'S surprising how we Filipinos can be readily lured into the game plan of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It seems that we have lost the capacity to discern. We seem to easily fall into her political guiles. Are we a nation of numbskulls? Can't we see that the Charter change being peddled by GMA is meant to muddle and divert the issue of her accountability for the grievous wrongdoings she has committed? Have we become so dull we fail to see through her deceptions?

Hear her talk of saving this nation from rotten politics! But what is she essentially doing now? Isn't her actuations the most appalling display of rotten politics? Look at what she has been doing all these days in the wake of the "Hello Garci" scandal. Isn't she perpetrating the most vicious political acts and deeds she hypocritically decries? How can the politicians who now witness her political wiles be expected to be upright statesmen of tomorrow, when what she has exhibited all along is a legacy of Machiavellian tricks and devices?

Why has she been hiding Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano? Sitting as President, one acclaimed by a foreign magazine as the "fourth most powerful woman" in the world, why doesn't she cause Garcillano to come out in the open? What is she so afraid about Garci's coming out of his hiding place? And why is she now trying to block the impeachment process through her allies in Congress?

And who are the people she has entrusted with doing the Cha-cha? Are they not the same people who are so adept in the ways of rotten politics that she claims to detest? Do we have reason to believe that she sincerely desires genuine political reforms when she herself has not reformed? If she is indeed sincere in reforming society, then let her start with a clean slate. And the only honorable way she can do that is by a sincere act of "letting out the truth." Nothing less.

Enough of prevarications! Enough of demagoguery! Let her be accountable for her "lapse in judgment."

And what has become of her moral sensibilities? Isn't she committing another lapse in judgment by dealing with the Marcoses for an act that will in effect exonerate—no, exalt—the hated dictator despite his crimes against the Filipino people? Presumably, she is thinking of "dividing and conquering" the opposition? Oh, isn't that a classic Machiavellian trick?

Indeed, the more she maneuvers for her political survival, the deeper she sinks into moral bankruptcy! What a despicable "role model" of Filipino womanhood. What a despicable model for the Filipino youth! She is like a modern Hecate.

Would we, Filipinos, allow ourselves to dance her Cha-cha? Woe to us if we do!

—DON PAGUSARA,
Humanities Division,
Ateneo de Davao University,
Roxas Avenue, Davao City

Tongue-tied Pinoy tourists in Japan

EIGHT doctors were invited by the Tokoshokie Medical Group to an educational tour in Japan from May 25 to July 23, 2005. Besides being awed by Japan's advanced technology, they experienced "little incidents" which made a favorable impression on them. Dr. Benedicto Fragante was one of the doctors, and here are the anecdotes which he recounted:

One of the doctors left his digital camera on top of a table in a hotel restaurant. After two hours, he realized that his camera was missing. To his mind, it was as good as lost. Nevertheless, he returned to the restaurant to see if it was still there and, to his surprise, the camera was still on the table where he left it.

Another doctor, without his knowing it, accidentally dropped his cell phone inside a roller-coaster cabin in Disneyland. When he realized that his cell phone was missing, he went back to Disneyland after one and a half hours, even though he thought it was a hopeless search since there were hundreds of people around. He jumped with joy when he found his cell phone on the same area where he dropped it.

Still, another doctor took a taxi ride. He was supposed to receive 20 yen for a change, but he told the driver to keep it for himself. The driver refused and insisted on giving it to him.

"Why, in your country, is it not the same?" Whenever their tourist guide would ask them this question, the doctors found themselves embarrassed and tongue-tied.

—TRIFONIA S. POBRE,
125 Bonifacio St.,
Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

CIA figures belie GMA's claim country is on verge of take-off

THE US Central Intelligence Agency, in its "CIA Factbook," does not agree with President Macapagal-Arroyo's much-applauded State of the Nation Address, in which she claimed that the country was "on the verge of take-off."

In its Factbook, the CIA said:

"Nonetheless, it will take a higher, sustained growth path to make appreciable progress in poverty alleviation given the Philippines' high annual population growth and unequal distribution of income. The Philippines also faces higher oil prices, higher interest rates on its dollar borrowings and higher inflation. Fiscal constraints limit Manila's ability to finance infrastructure and social spending. The Philippines' consistently large budget deficit has produced a high debt level and has forced Manila to spend a large portion of the national government budget on debt service. Large, unprofitable public enterprises, especially in the energy sector, contribute to the government's debt because of slow progress on privatization. Credit rating agencies are increasingly concerned about the Philippines' ability to sustain the debt; legislative progress on new revenue measures will weigh heavily on credit rating decisions."

The Factbook put unemployment in the Philippines last year at 11.7 percent. GMA claimed she generated four million jobs in the past four years. Some years back, the unemployment rate was just around 9 percent.

The Factbook also placed the Philippine population below the poverty line at 40 percent, the highest in Southeast Asia and on the same level as Laos and Cambodia. In contrast, the National Statistics and Coordination Board claimed the poverty level had dropped from 27.5 percent in 2002 to 24.7 percent in 2003.

The President claimed "marked improvements in tax collections." According to the 2004 BIR annual report, the tax effort which reached a peak of 13 percent in 1997 has been sliding ever since as follows: 1998, 12.65 percent; 1999, 11.47 percent; 2000, 10.76 percent; 2001, 10.7 percent; and 2002, 10.16 percent; 2003 (2004?), 9.88 percent. Collection in 2003 (2004) was P468 billion, less than P8 billion of the target of P477 billion.

The 2004 trade deficit was actually $4.36 billion and not just $713 million as earlier reported, according the National Statistics Office. The 2003 trade deficit was also revised from $1.27 billion to $4.24 billion, while that of 2002 from $218 million to $4.03 billion. These recall the last years of the Marcos regime, when it bloated the figures on the Central Bank's dollar reserves to make the country's credit standing look good. It only made the foreign institutions more suspicious of Philippine statistics.

Well, it seems that the "economic figures" belie the President's claim that the economy is about to take off.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Bad recipe to fill people's hunger

INDEED, it was very improper and in "bad taste" to use the achievement of the new executive chef of the White House in boosting the "low popularity" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Being the eldest brother of Cristeta G. Pasia-Comerford, I am sure she will never allow herself to be a party to any political posturings and misgivings, especially a "political cookery." She will never do a "*lutong macaw.*"

An appeal to the people of Ms Arroyo: Please do not use Comerford to solve your need for correct recipes to address the hunger of our people for justice and food.

—DAN PASIA, Manila

IDOL EPISODE!

Ang walang kamatayang **Elvis**
Ang pinagkakaguluhang **Neil Gaiman**
Ang pinaghahanap na **idolo ng bayan**

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Potable water flows from 'bayanihan'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
General Nakar, Quezon

THEY hiked mountains, hauling pipes, cement, gravel and sand to build a concrete tank that would store water from one of the springs that abound in General Nakar town in Quezon.

About 2,200 workers were involved in the construction of the water systems from February to July. The project is expected to benefit about 3,500 families.

According to the menfolk, it was an effort that they would do again just so they could save their children from sickness due to lack of safe water to drink.

Orlando Zurbano, a Dumagat, said he wanted to feel in his hands the flow of clean water from the newly installed pipes connected from the concrete tank to their homes.

ONE OF the new water pumps was put up inside the compound of the General Nakar Elementary School for the use of the students.
DELFIN T. MALLARI, JR.

THE MENFOLK provided free labor in the construction of the water system in General Nakar, Quezon.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GENADEV

General Nakar's water system was among the facilities destroyed by four successive typhoons that hit the town late last year. The calamity left 334 persons dead, 171 missing and 24,000 displaced, and the figures could be higher after landslides destroyed 41 spring development systems, cutting off community access to potable water.

A worse situation was avoided following the timely decision of the nongovernment General Nakar Development Initiatives Inc. (Genadev) to rehabilitate the town's potable water systems.

On the first week of January, Genadev submitted a proposal to the Terre des Hommes (Earth for Humanity) Netherlands, an aid organization with a mission focus on children. Within the month, the agency approved a P3-million grant for General Nakar's water development projects.

Water theft

After the typhoons, most of the hand pumps in the town produced contaminated water, authorities found.

Local health officials had warned that the continuous absence of potable water could cause water-borne diseases among the population.

Dolores Romantico, municipal social welfare and development officer, recalled how gallons of donated mineral water disappeared during the first days after the disasters.

"With the grave shortage of potable water, the people learned to steal water. Water then was so scarce that most often, it was the only missing item in our stock. The thieves were only after the water, sparing other relief goods, such as clothing and packed food items," she said.

Many children suffered from diarrhea, she added.

"The people could no longer depend on the cleanliness of their traditional source of water. Most of the wells [had dried up], or been contaminated," Romantico said.

Katubig project

Knowing that the bottled water brought by relief groups would soon dry up, Genadev launched the "Kagyat na Tubig-inumin na Bayanihan ng Mamamayan ng General Nakar" (Katubig) project.

"We immediately set up temporary spring development systems in the 19 affected villages within three municipal clusters with an estimated population of 4,985 families or 24,743 individuals," said Leo Alforte, Genadev executive director.

The Kabilugan cluster consists of five lowland barangays which are adjacent to the town center.

The Ilaya cluster has eight barangays near the Agos Kaliwa and Kanan rivers, while the Baybay cluster has six coastal barangays along Polillo Strait facing the Pacific Ocean.

General Nakar covers about 134,940 hectares of mountainous and forested area at the borders of Dingalan, Aurora in the north, the municipalities of Real and Infanta in the south, and the provinces of Rizal, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija in the west.

The town has vast water resources, which have been supplementing the Umiray-Angat Transbasin going to La Mesa Dam, from where the rest of Metro Manila gets its water requirements.

Rehabilitation

With many potential sources of potable water in the town, Alforte said emergency relief assistance for potable water systems required the installation of water pumps for household clusters, especially in the Kabilugan area.

"Upland areas required the setup of temporary spring water systems for each sitio," he added.

As of June 25, 67 hand pumps and 40 spring development sites have been established in different villages.

"Most of them were already complete," Alforte said.

Genadev provided the construction materials, pipes and hoses, with the villagers providing manpower in building temporary spring water systems, including concrete water tanks.

The village officials formulated effective installation, usage and management of the potable water systems.

Prior to the installation of the water systems, all stakeholders signed a memorandum of agreement that specifies and ensures their respective obligations that will sustain their operation.

Community-owned

"The whole community owns the water systems. Genadev will only act as the facilitator to ensure the effective implementation and management of the project in coordination with the local government," Alforte said.

Charlemagne Gubmalin, community leader in Barangay Anoling, said it was only now that the community had adapted water faucets since they only had the traditional well as their source of potable water.

He said that when he learned of the Katubig project, he immediately called for a neighborhood meeting. "I explained to them the importance of the project, how we should work together to secure a lasting source of potable water."

Gubmalin said the community now got water from a concrete tank, which sources water from a spring. "From the tank, we laid down a main pipe. We connected our respective pipes which now bring water right inside our sink and bathroom," he said.

Gratitude

Mayor Hernando Avellaneda was profuse with gratitude at Genadev. "Since its formation, Genadev has been an invaluable partner of the General Nakar government in all programs that aim to improve the lives of our people," he said.

Genadev was formed on Nov. 8, 2001, by a group of local residents with experience in different nongovernment organizations. That same year, it facilitated the formulation of the Comprehensive, Integrated and Sustainable Development Program of General Nakar, in partnership with the University of the Philippines.

Since then, Genadev has been working in partnership with the local government unit to accomplish the community's vision of sustainable development.

Peace hopes creep in Mindoro

By Madonna Virola
City of Calapan

LIKE other parents of victims of human rights violations, Nena Magsino, mother of slain lawyer Juvy Magsino, is frustrated with the country's justice system.

"Why is the government not helping my daughter, who was a public official and had been true to her office?" the teary-eyed Magsino told journalists during a press conference on Aug. 16 in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro.

Juvy was the vice mayor of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and human rights lawyer when she was killed on Feb. 13 last year. She and Leima Fortu, a teacher, acting secretary general of Karapatan-Oriental Mindoro and district coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna, were found dead, some five hours after attending President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign program in Calapan.

Juvy was the mayoral candidate of the ruling Lakas-CMD and president of the Vice Mayors League in the province.

Not prospering

Her mother said the case had not prospered because no new evidence could be gathered. Witnesses fear for their lives, it was observed.

The case was resurrected when the International Solidarity Mission (ISM) came for a fact-finding work on Aug. 14-16 on the unsolved killings of militant leaders in the province. Karapatan has placed the number of unsolved cases in Mindoro at 41.

The ISM was convened by the International Association of People's Lawyers, Promotion of Church People's Response, International League of People's Struggles-Philippine chapter, Bayan Muna and Karapatan. It was composed of volunteer lawyers, doctors, engineers, professors and students from the United States, Canada, Belgium, Turkey, Norway, Australia and the Philippines.

Banners

In their meeting with Gov. Arnan Panaligan, ISM members complained that they felt "unwelcome," noting the hundreds of banners against them that were hanging along the roads as they traveled to southern Mindoro where the crimes took place. One banner read: "*Umuwi na kayo* (Go home)."

Panaligan said he would look into the matter even as he defended the banners as expressions of freedom. He said he hoped for an objective and fair investigation by the group.

At the provincial capitol complex, the ISM members told military representatives that they were harassed and intimidated at the checkpoints.

The foreign delegates said they feared for the lives of local friends who would be left behind as there had been a trend of killing militant leaders during the time of then Col. Jovito Palparan.

Col. Dan Sorneo, commander of the 64th Infantry Battalion assured them of their safety.

First Lt. Juvily dela Fuente Cabading, spokesperson of the 204th Infantry Brigade cited the military's effort to be different from the combative style of the "old school." She disclosed that the Armed Forces was implementing a program with the Philippine National Police that conducts community-based activities conducive to development. This is "new school," she said.

She also cited the trainings on international humanitarian laws and cultural sensitivity being taken by their soldiers to make them sensitive to the Mangyan folk.

Cabading said the Army's youth leadership summits had led to the organization of the province-wide Bantay-Kapayapaan. It was this group that owned responsibility for the banners that made the ISM unwelcome.

"I hope that a meaningful dialogue will resolve the issues," said Mark Andrew Zirnsak of the Uniting Church of Australia.

Foreign impression

Praising the Filipinos' "passion for democracy" as proven by the toppling of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, the foreign delegates said they would bring to their networks the reports of the "repressive regime" of President Arroyo.

Recognizing that the mission's concerns were not only political, Sebnem Korur Fincanci, a forensic doctor from Turkey, said she would bring their findings to her organization and international bodies looking into the psychological rehabilitation assistance of families and friends of human rights victims, as well as the care for human rights workers and advocates.

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Maliksi snubs meeting with Remulla

REM ZAMORA/PDI PHOTO

MALIKSI waves to his supporters from the windows of his office in Cavite where he is holed up.

By Luige A. del Puerto

ALL WERE there-except the person who should have been. Suspended Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi snubbed yesterday's dialogue with the camp of acting governor Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna, according to Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, director of the Southern Tagalog region.

The interior department had arranged the meeting with the Philippine National Police acting as host.

"Governor Maliksi was invited but for some reason he did not attend," Versoza said on the phone.

Besides Remulla, those who came were local government regional director Leonilo Lariosa, Magallanes Mayor Filomeno Maligaya representing the mayor's league of the province, Trece Martires City Mayor Melencio de Sagun, and top police officials of the province.

By Versoza's account, those who were present tried to make the best out of the meeting.

They agreed on two major points. One, they will exhaust all means to resolve the standoff peacefully. Two, an action center shall be established in the capital to address minor issues like health and garbage.

"The center shall be represented by all parties ... so we can maintain government processes," Versoza said.

On Tuesday, PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao declared that the police would stay neutral and that their primary concern would be to keep the peace in the province.

Asked how the points agreed upon during the meeting could become binding for both sides when Maliksi or his representative was not there, Versoza said he does not think the embattled governor would object to any of them.

"I'm sure he will agree (to those points) since they are for the people of Cavite and (their aim) is to continue the government processes there," he said.

Versoza said he would also talk to Maliksi to tell him what happened during the meeting.

Quoting Remulla, Versoza said Maliksi could stay in his office while the acting governor would also stay in his office.

But Remulla will be the one running the province not Maliksi, Versoza said. *With a report from Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Federal advocates demand Con-con, not Con-ass, for Cha-cha

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Advocates of the federal-parliamentary form of government here have stepped up the campaign for Constitutional Convention (Con-con) even as politicians are batting for a Constituent Assembly (Con-ass) as a procedure to amend the 1987 Constitution.

The local chapter of the Citizens' Movement for Federal Philippines (CMFP) has made appearances on TV and radio talk shows. Letters to editors from CMFP have also reached local newspapers.

"There's a need to have our choices heard, not to be drowned out by calls for Con-ass," said Emmanuel Areño of the Iloilo Code of NGOs and one of the leaders of the local CMFP.

There are two methods in amending the Charter. One is through Con-con where the delegates are elected by the people. The other is through a Con-ass where Congress convenes into a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of amending the Constitution.

A simple majority of both chambers in Congress, voting separately, can convene a constituent assembly. Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, may propose amendments or revisions of the Constitution.

The Con-con delegates are elected by districts, thus generating more participation. But government saves time and resources because only the members of Congress will convene and constitute itself as a Con-ass.

Areño said that given the current political crisis, both the House of Representative and the Senate have limited time to revise the Constitution.

He said Congress is busy discussing the 2006 budget as well the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, *jueteng* and electoral fraud.

Areño said it is prudent to elect Con-con delegates who can stay focused and devote quality time on the delicate job of revising the Charter.

"Given also the low confidence or trust rating of Congress and the conflict of interest that would be at play, there is a risk that the public may reject the amended Charter," he said.

The CMFP leaders said support for Con-con is growing, especially among the non-government and people's organizations and the academe.

They also tried to reach out to politicians who are in favor of a federal-parliamentary form of government.

As the CMFP campaign went on full swing, so did the separate campaign being pushed by a group of politicians who formed the Coalition of Citizens for Charter Change Now.

Among the coalition leaders is Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

The coalition wants a change from the presidential to unicameral parliamentary form, and from unitary to federal structure.

In a paid political advertisement published in the INQUIRER early this month, the coalition said that unicameralism would make lawmaking simple and more efficient.

With federalism, local government units will have greater control over their natural resources and end the dominance of "imperial Manila."

Tañon Strait exploration damages 52 fish cages

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The joint oil exploration in Tañon Strait, a protected seascape between Cebu and Negros Islands, has damaged 52 fishing facilities locally known as *payao* in the towns of Guihulngan and La Libertad in northern Negros Oriental.

This was contained in a report sent to the Capitol by Rene Bulado, president of the Municipal Fishing and Aquatic Resources in Guihulngan.

In his report, Bulado said 51 *payaos* in Guihulngan and one in La Libertad were damaged by the exploration, believed to be conducted in late May and early June, by Japanese Exploration Corp. and the Canadian firm Forum Energy Corp.

Unconfirmed reports, however, showed that owners of these *payaos* were paid P5,000 for each unit destroyed.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz expressed extreme disappointment over the failure of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the two firms to consult local officials about the exploration.

He said he would bring the matter to officials of the DOE.

Dumaguete City Vice Mayor William Ablong, consultant for coastal resources management program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAIDS), was also alarmed by the exploration.

Ablong said Tañon Strait is one of the top 10 richest municipal fishing grounds in the country, covering 41 cities and municipalities in Cebu and Negros Islands.

"The strait is also an important habitat for whales, dolphins, sharks and whale sharks," he said.

Survey shows Filipinos unaware of biodiversity

A SURVEY conducted a few months ago revealed that Filipinos have a low level of awareness of the amazing biodiversity richness of the Philippines.

Conducted by Taylor Nelsen Sofres (TNS), the study was commissioned by the Haribon Foundation to measure public awareness on biodiversity. Haribon Foundation is a non-profit organization that has been at the forefront of environmental campaigns for the past three decades.

PHOTO FROM HARIBON

THE PHILIPPINE Eagle, one of the largest birds in the world, is endemic to the country.

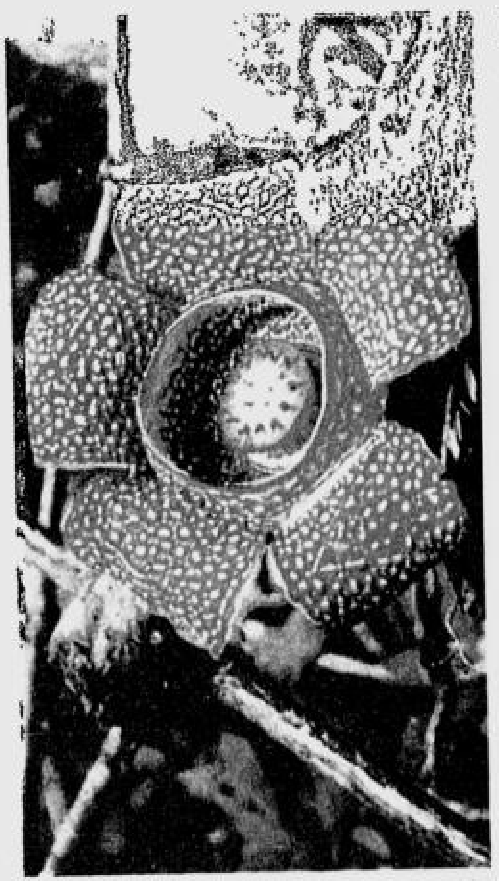


PHOTO FROM HARIBON

ONE of the world's largest flowers, the Rafflesia, is also found in the Philippines.

The survey covered 300 respondents in Metro Manila, mostly from Class C homes and within the age range of 16 to 30 years old. Class C covered the upper and broad middle class, meaning, their homes and lifestyles reflect a comfortable living and the capacity to indulge in more luxuries. The survey was also administered to 180 respondents in Occidental Mindoro, Antique, Surigao, and Cebu.

Respondents who claimed to be aware of the issues concerning biodiversity failed to provide a full definition of the term.

In fact, only 17 percent of respondents in Metro Manila are aware of the concept of biodiversity.

"While most of the respondents give priority to issues such as waste management, biodiversity conservation, however, is low on their list. This is a very sad fact considering how rich our biodiversity is compared to other countries," said Haribon executive director Anabelle Plantilla.

"Some respondents defined biodiversity as the difficulty in coping with the various events in the country; while others associated biodiversity with the strength or weakness of the human body."

Biodiversity refers to the totality of life forms and the areas that they occupy. In short, biodiversity is life. It is biodiversity that provides humans with food such as fruits, nuts, grains etc., clothing from cotton and shelter from the various natural products of the forests.

The continued protection and preservation of biodiversity in our country also translates to our continued survival and safety as a people. Our forests can purify our air and provide us with clean water.

"We want to call the attention of a wider number of Filipinos and tell them that our country's forests, seas, rivers, caves, and other habitats are home to riches and wonders beyond compare. We are privileged to have this wealth living among us and we should strive to protect it," Anabelle said.

Something to be proud of: The Philippines is one of the world's 'richest' in terms of biodiversity. When it comes to species diversity, our country has around 15,000 kinds of plants, 254 species of reptiles, 578 species of birds, and one of them, the Philippine Eagle, is the largest eagle in the world.

"Our natural heritage, as rich as it may be, is being degraded and destroyed. Beyond political intrigues and maneuverings, the loss of our country's real wealth may be something we better be alarmed about," said Anabelle.

Knowing these pieces of information are not enough, she said there must be action. "It means that Haribon and other environmental groups will have to work harder. First, we have to raise awareness, then hopefully, it will make more people move into action and take the plight of our environment."

Haribon Foundation needs all the help it can get. For more inquiries on its advocacies and projects, call the Haribon Biodiversity Hotline at 433-3474 or log on to www.haribon.org.ph.

Grenade blast kills 2 kids

DAVAO CITY—Two children were killed when the M-79 grenade they were toying with exploded inside their house in Barangay Upper Bala in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, police said yesterday.

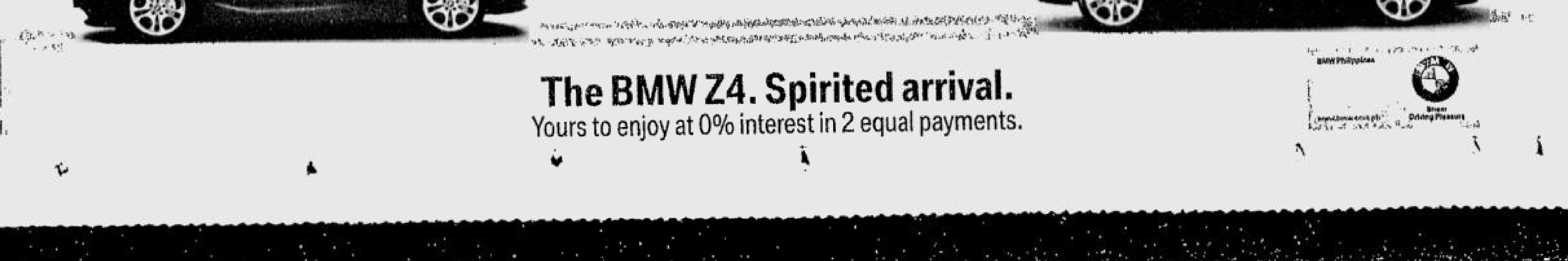
Senior Insp. Dave Mejia, Magsaysay police chief, said that the grenade was found by the children's father in the farm he was tilling about five years ago.

The father kept the explosive inside their house.

The children, identified in another police report as Dignim Bacalso, 10, and his sister Lowelyn, 5, died from shrapnel wounds in different parts of their body when the grenade exploded on Sunday noon.

Upper Bala was a former battleground of the military and communist rebels.

Police investigators said the explosive could have been left by combatants from either side. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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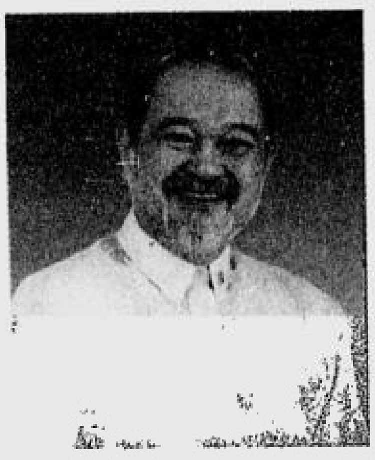

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Malls on tight watch for endangered birds

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will keep a close watch on Metro Manila malls following reports that endangered birds are being sold openly in several stores inside the shopping centers.

Informants alleged a stall in SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City sold mynahs and cockatoos, both endangered bird species, last weekend, according to Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro.

The DENR official, who oversees the government's protected areas and wildlife program, said the department would inform the management of SM this week, as well as owners of other malls who might not be aware of the illegal trade.

"They may not have checked these things. We just want to reiterate our campaign against the sale of wildlife, especially endangered species, since we already have agreements with mall owners," De Castro said.

DENR-National Capital Region executive director Cora Davis said the department would remind the owners of the SM and Robinsons malls, both signatories of agreements with the DENR, on the observance of environmental laws so they can reinforce their surveillance systems.

Davis said DENR operatives went to Megamall Sunday afternoon to verify reports of a flourishing trade in endangered birds.

But the operatives, who arrived at 6 p.m., did not find any mynahs and cockatoos on display.

Davis declined to name the stall owner, but said the DENR had pictures of the stall selling endangered birds.

"We will just be reminding mall owners to check the merchandise. They may even invite us as witnesses if necessary, before allowing people to sell animals," she said in a phone interview yesterday.

Mynahs sell for P3,000-5,000 each, while cockatoos are priced from P10,000-20,000. Also increasingly popular as pets, though these are protected species, are civets and tiger cats.

"It's an in thing now to own exotic birds and animals, so we really have to monitor the wildlife trade," Davis added. "We also need to know the origin of imported birds because some could be from Thailand, where there is bird flu."

Hobbyists in Metro Manila usually go to Arranque in Manila or Cartimar in Pasay City, where they can look over their choices.

Davis said the new modus operandi was to pre-order their picks. These are then picked up in a house near the two markets or in a vehicle parked on a street in Green Meadows subdivision, Quezon City. Around 350 of the country's 1,130 terrestrial wildlife species and about half of all bird species are threatened with extinction, the DENR said.

Lost boy finds way home after six years

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AFTER six years, a boy, now 12, finally found his way home.

James Luigi Garcinela last saw his family in Taguig City when he was six. His grandfather, with the parents' consent, took his first grandchild to Midsayap, North Cotabato.

James was sent to school in Cotabato City under the care of an aunt.

The boy communicated with his parents only through long distance phone calls.

Missing his family, James ran away from his dormitory in Cotabato City to return to his old home in January.

Taking the bus or jeepney, or sometimes walking, the boy often got lost.

Fortunately in Cagayan de Oro City, a woman, only identified by her surname, Loyola, saw James walking aimlessly.

After hearing his story, the woman took care of James for some time before he was brought to Marlon Kilapio and Faith Gerona of the city's Office for Social Welfare and Development (OSWD). The office later informed the Taguig City OSWD about the runaway boy.

The Visayan Forum, a non-government organization against child trafficking, helped care for the child.

It took Taguig OSWD head Nitz Jordan, social worker Jurita Olvido and coordinators Annie Montano and Rene Tana, five months to trace the boy's family at No. 31 A. Aguirre St., Zone 4, Barangay Signal Village.

On Monday, James, with the Cagayan de Oro social workers, met his mother, Rosalinda, for the first time in six years.

"Without your persistence, we might have not seen him again," Rosalinda said as she tearfully thanked her son's rescuers during a courtesy call on Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga.

Rooftop check for dengue carriers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MOSQUITOS suspected of being dengue carriers could be lurking even on rooftops in depressed communities.

The Pasay City Health Office (CHO) discouraged city residents, especially those living in depressed areas, from putting black tires to hold down their roofs, saying these were good breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

"These tires accumulate water when it rains and these mosquitoes are attracted to black," said surveillance health officer Lilibeth Ortega in an interview with INQUIRER.

She added that the CHO would also give out nails to depressed areas and help them fix their roofs so that the residents would no longer need the tires.

The CHO also said that it was not fumigation and fogging operations that could stop the dengue outbreak.

"There should be a thorough cleanup drive instead," she stressed.

On Aug. 30, the CHO is set to conduct a cleanup activity in Barangay 183, where about 40-percent concentration of mosquito larvae was found in the area.

The cleanup acitivity would also include two schools—Villamor Airbase Elementary School and the Pasay City South High School—which are under the jurisdicition of Barangay 183.

ONE-YEAR-old Jonayln Colot undergoes a checkup inside the Barangay Bagong Pag-Asa health center in Quezon City. There have been eight casualties out of 74 reported cases of dengue in the barangay. City health workers have been monitoring the community and providing medical aid to residents.

JOAN BONDOC

There are roughly 17,061 residents in the barangay. "We have already coordinated our activities with the barangay captain, retired Lt. Cesar Castillo," said public health nurse Resty Ong.

He said the support of the community was very important in their fight against dengue.

"Our efforts would be useless without the awareness and participation of the community," he added.

The city had recorded 79 dengue cases from January to August. However, despite an upsurge in dengue-related deaths throughout the country, only two cases were registered in the city this month.

So far, the CHO has not registered a single death caused by the virus, Dr. Rosalinda Mangonon, city health officer, added.

Jueteng critics offer no solution

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHAT'S with the anti-jueteng advocates? They point out the problem but they don't offer a solution. The government plans to replace jueteng, a very popular numbers game, with a similar game called "Bingo Combo." Thus, jueteng would become legal. But the No. 1 jueteng nemesis, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, blocks the plan saying Bingo Combo "will be the same dog with a different collar."

What would Archbishop Cruz have, the complete elimination of jueteng with an accompanying problem of increased drug incidence; or legalizing jueteng, erasing corruption among local and police officials? During the time of Interior Secretary Robert Barbers, he ordered a complete stop to jueteng. A much worse problem cropped up. Jueteng collectors and cabos (foremen), deprived of livelihood, shifted to pushing drugs.

Cruz's contention is that jueteng is not only illegal, but also immoral. If jueteng becomes legal it will now be in the same category as horseracing, lotto, cockfight, sweepstakes and bingo. These games of chance are also played by the poor, so the legal issue flies out the window. If Cruz so hates all games of chance, why doesn't he also ask his fellow clergymen to stop bingo and raffles? What's the difference between jueteng and bingo or raffle? Since Cruz wants the government to stop jueteng altogether he should also offer a solution.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson says that bingo combo would "squeeze money from the bettors, most of whom are poor, and redistribute the same to the rich mayors and operators. It's hooded Robin Hood sans conscience." C'mon, Ping, stop being a hypocrite! When you were chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), "Bingo 2 Balls," which was to have replaced jueteng, was introduced. Bingo 2 Balls "brains" Wally Sombero met with governors, mayors, PNP regional and provincial directors, to inform them about the Bingo 2 Balls as a substitute for jueteng. Sombero did this on behalf of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corp. He said that after two weeks of operation, Bingo 2 Balls stopped jueteng "100 percent." Sombero added that Bingo 2 Balls stopped because of the quarrel between Atong Ang, President Erap's drinking buddy, and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. So, Ping, what's the difference between Bingo 2 Balls, which your friends cooked up during Erap's time, and the planned Bingo Combo?

2 girls die in San Juan, Malabon City fires

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and DJ Yap

TWO GIRLS died in two separate fires in Metro Manila yesterday.

High school student, Catrina Verdote, 15, was killed after a 20-minute fire razed their two-story house in San Juan early yesterday morning.

She was trapped in her bedroom on the upper floor of the house in Barangay Addition Hills, municipal fire chief Eloy Gabriel told the INQUIRER. Verdote's mother Cristy, 46, and helper Mercedes Cruz, 69, were treated for minor burns.

Family driver Cesar Bascones told investigators he was in his quarters near the kitchen when he was awakened by the noise of breaking glass about 4:30 a.m.

He thought people were quarrelling but when he rushed out of his room, he saw the kitchen on fire. Cristy, her husband Rafael, and their two daughters as well as Bascones, Cruz and two other helpers managed to get out of the burning house. But Catrina was trapped in her room.

Gabriel said Catrina might have been rendered unconscious. As the fire spread, the wooden upper floor collapsed.

Responding firefighters managed to put out the fire about 4:50 a.m. and recovered Catrina's body on the ground floor. Gabriel said about P8 million worth of property was lost.

Hours later, Sandra Paulina, 1, died when a fire hit two rooms of their one-story house in Malabon City at noon yesterday. Gloria Alcantara, the girl's 37-year-old mother, left the girl and another child, JP, 4, in their home for about 20 minutes, investigators said. JP managed to get out of the house when the fire broke out.

Arson investigators said the fire started at 12:10 p.m. at 54 M. Sioson St., Dampalit, Merville Subdivision in the room where Alcantara left her children. The fire spread to an adjoining room before it was put out at 12:28 p.m., said SF03 Job Santisteban.

Meanwhile, another fire damaged David's Salon on the ground floor of Hanston Building at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The blaze was put out before the firefighters arrived.

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METROBRIEFS

Pirates, beware!

KAYA TIGILAN NYO NA YAN!

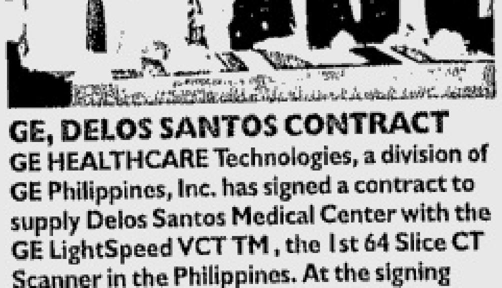
PROMISING to strike hard after the countdown, a new anti-piracy team had this message to companies using pirated computer software for business, a crime that crippled the local software industry by P3.7 billion in lost profits last year. The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, an inter-agency effort against software piracy, debuted yesterday afternoon, vowing an all-out nationwide countdown against companies using counterfeit computer software by mid-September. "We are hoping that with this new drive, we could create a greater impact against piracy on the streets," said Edu Manzano, chair of the Optical Media Board (OMB), an agency tasked to wipe out the lucrative piracy industry in the country. Apart from the OMB, other agencies involved in the effort are the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine National Police, the Intellectual Property Coalition, and the Business Software Alliance (BSA). The BSA also offered a reward of P1 million to those who can help them pin down companies illegally using software. For those living in Metro Manila, BSA may be reached through 819-5897. Or call the toll-free number 1-800-1-888-8787 to report suspected users of pirated software. *Tarra V.Quismundo*

Arroceros witness barred

ENVIRONMENT advocates yesterday suffered a minor setback after the city government's legal team prevented their witness from testifying in court on the contested Arroceros Forest Park. Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27 Judge Teresa Soriaso reset yesterday's hearing after Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's counsels filed a motion to quash the subpoena for opposition councilor Bernie Ang. Ang sponsored a resolution allowing the city government to buy the 2.1-hectare park from the Land Bank of the Philippines during the term of then Mayor Alfredo Lim. Jojo Paras, counsel for park caretakers Winner Foundation, said the court gave them one day to file their comment on the motion filed by Atienza's lawyers, and another day for the latter's reply before the judge issues a resolution. Paras said they would also ask the court to summon Atienza to attend the hearing set next week. Environmentalists have been opposing the construction of a teachers' building in the park, saying the move would result in the destruction of trees and lush foliage inside what it called Manila's "last lung." *Tina G. Santos*

Who is being displaced?

THE FLOOR tiles are damaged. The small canals are clogged. The iron bars are rusting. The drainage system stinks. That the local government is finally planning a makeover for the Mutya ng Pasig Public Market, "the biggest in the metropolis,"should be a source of relief. But some vendors are not that excited. Vendors had organized rallies when the public market, home to more than 3,000 legitimate stall owners, was renovated several years ago. "Some stall owners were displaced during that renovation. Can they blame us if we are apprehensive now?" a fish vendor told the INQUIRER yesterday. But the local government insisted that a major makeover, not a displacement of vendors, was in the works. Health and sanitation council committee chair Councilor Bobby Eusebio met the other day with the vendors to present the plan. The councilor, son of Mayor Vicente Eusebio, quickly dismissed the vendors' fears. Public information chief Oliver Mendoza said the plan was still in the drawing board because consultations with the vendors were still ongoing. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*



GE, DELOS SANTOS CONTRACT
GE HEALTHCARE Technologies, a division of GE Philippines, Inc. has signed a contract to supply Delos Santos Medical Center with the GE LightSpeed VCT TM, the 1st 64 Slice CT Scanner in the Philippines. At the signing were hospital executives and GE officers. Seated (from left) Dr. Ignacio O. Lim, Dr. Efren V. Delos Santos, Dr. Jose V. Delos Santos, and Milette S. Averia. Standing, (from left) Cromwell G. Tarca, Dondi Delos Santos, and Renato O. Romero.

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

MIT deals Letran 1st NC defeat

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT took a steel-nerved performance from the Mapua Cardinals to halt the Letran Knights' phenomenal 11-game winning run.

Led by rookie Kelvin dela Peña, the Cardinals turned back the Knights' desperate rally down the wire for a 71-66 stunner in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Dela Peña, a 21-year-old guard who grew up in Canada, shot a game-high 18 points including the game-clinching layup with 1:13 remaining.

"Letran has a strong team but they might have been overconfident coming into this game, so I told the boys that this is the best time to beat them," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim. "We're already in the Final Four but I challenged the team that we're playing for pride and character."

The Cardinals improved to 8-4 and spoiled the Knights' bid to sweep the elimination round. A sweep could have given the Knights an outright Finals berth.

Earlier, the University of Perpetual Help Altas kept their semifinal chances alive after repulsing the Jose Rizal U Bombers, 62-48.

Khiel Misa and Rommel Balboa paced the Altas with 13 points apiece.

"We're thinking positive that there will still be a playoff," said Altas coach Bai Cristobal. "Not everything is in our control but we're doing our best."

The Altas, who moved up to fifth at 5-8, must win their last game against the St. Benilde Blazers, and at the same time, hope that the San Sebastian Stags (6-5)lose their remaining matches to forge a playoff.

A Dela Peña drive padded the Cardinals' lead to 69-66 after the Knights threatened at 67-66.

In junior play, Raycon Kabigting scored 18 points to pace the Light Bombers (5-6) to a 94-59 rout over the winless Altalettes.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

PERPETUAL 62—Balboa 13, Misa 13, Reyes 10, Bauzon 8, Joe 7, Refuerzo 6, Apor 5, Salanga 0, Manuel 0, Racho 0, Mendoza 0.

JRU 48—Magtahao 15, Mañiego 14, Natividad 6, Jorge 6, Sena 4, Fenequito 2, Nicolas 1, Japson 0.

Quarters: 16-13, 27-22, 40-36, 62-48

Second Game (Srs)

MAPUA 71—Dela Peña 18, Co 13, Veranga 10, Gonzales 9, Del Rosario 8, Sumalinog 5, Pascual 4, Tiongco 2, Salud 2, Gorospe 0, Malgapo 0, Migraso 0.

LETRAN 66—Bautista 15, Aban 14, Aldave 13, Alcaraz 9, Rodriguez 7, Piñera 4, Andaya 2, Anabo 1, Realista 1, Quinday 0, Baineg 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 35-35, 58-51, 71-66

LETRAN'S John Paul Alcaraz (right) goes for a shot against Mapua's Neil Pascual (15) and Tristan Veranga (5) in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

RP-SMB meets hot SK Knights

BRUNEI—The RP-San Miguel Beer team tries to stop the unbeaten SK Knights of South Korea Wednesday after going through a virtual workout Tuesday in the 5th Shell Rimula Cup at the National Indoor Stadium here.

Pitted against a team of Filipinos who are based here and known as the Warriors All-Stars, the Nationals were hardly challenged as they breezed to a 133-67 victory that raised their record to 2-1.

"This game is really our preparation for the SK Knights that's why I gave everyone a lot of minutes and a chance to run and sweat it out," said RP mentor Chot Reyes.

The Koreans have earlier beaten the Alaska Aces, 85-82, and are tied for the lead with the Toshiba Brave Thunders of Japan with three straight wins in the four-nation six-team tournament offering $20,000 to the champion.

The Japanese, conquerors of the RP five, 89-80, Saturday, underscored their worth further by downing the Aces, 78-69, also Tuesday.

Asi Taulava, averaging only 7.5 points in the first two games, led the Nationals with 18 points with seven others scoring in double figures against the Warriors. Seven other RP cagers finished in double figures.

The Nationals must win their match against the Koreans, who boast of former PBA import Wesley Wilson, to have a better spot in the knockout crossover semifinal round.

"SK Knights is really a tough team. I think they have a perfect import in Wilson, who takes care of the inside while the Koreans work in the three-point area," Reyes said.

The Nationals play the Alaska Aces as their final assignment in the elimination round on Thursday.

The scores:

First Game

RP-SMB 133—Taulava 18, Belasco 15, Reavis 13, Raymundo 12, Adducul 12, Hontiveros 12, Mamaril 11, Ritualo 11, Helterbrand 9, Williams 8, Dela Cruz 6, Alapag 6.

WARRIORS ALL-STAR 67—Dela Rea 15, Canillo 15, Ricafuente 11, Ybanez 7, De Guia 7, Guarda 3, Lucero 3, Malabanan 2, De Jesus 2, Leones 2, Buendia 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 37-17, 72-37, 113-51, 133-67

Back-up slotman key to Yancy-Anthony swap

By June Navarro

AS MIXED as the signals coming from the Talk 'N Text camp, it seems that the Phone Pals are just one back-up center away from acquiring the services of top rookie pick Anthony Washington.

Air21, which picked the 6-foot-7 Washington first during this year's annual PBA draft, has openly expressed preference for a trade that would bring the 6-9 Yancy de Ocampo back to the Express fold.

"*Palagi lang siyang magiging* No. 2 *kay* Asi [Taulava] while lead role *naman siya* with Air21. So I think this trade may be good for him," said TNT's representative to the PBA board, Ricky Vargas of De Ocampo.

However, coach Joel Banal is apprehensive about the deal, saying that De Ocampo, who is currently training in the Big Man's Camp in the US, did well not only as Taulava's backup but as the Phone Pals' starting center when the Tonga-born cager was suspended.

While agreeing with Banal by saying Taulava "cannot play the whole 48 minutes," he also added that the Phone Pals can remedy that by acquiring another reserve center.

Alvarez initiated the trade to free up some space in the Express' small forward position. Although Washington is blessed with size, he plays the same position as Marc Pingris, Niño Canaleta and Bruce Dacia.

Meanwhile, Dennis Miranda achieved two cherished dreams when Coca-Cola finally signed him up to a three-year deal the other day.

Aside from barging into the young millionaire's club of the Philippine Basketball Association, the 23-year-old Miranda now gets to play alongside his long-time idol, Johnny Abarrientos.

No figures were released but sources said this year's third overall pick will get P4 million in wages and salaries despite the team's tight salary cap. Performance bonuses are also included.

94

23rd SEA Games

Muros eyeing another SEAG

ELMA Muros-Posadas will most likely see action in the SEAG for the nth time.

The former long jump queen is in Madrid, Spain, seeing action in the Masters' championship, a meet where past champions from all over the world, including former javelin great Erlinda Lavandia, are competing.

Elma's performance in Madrid will give Patafa coaching staff headed by husband Jojo, the chance to evaluate whether or not she would see action again.

* * *

WOMEN'S football is bleeding, and its association is taking action to a grassy field of a different kind for funds.

A golf tournament titled "Goal In One" will be held on Friday, Sept. 2, at the Alabang Country Club inside posh Ayala Alabang to raise funds for the Philippine women's team seeking to win gold in the 23rd SEAG.

No less than a brand new Toyota Vios will be staked as a hole-in-one prize in any of the par-72 layout's par-3 holes.

"A player will just have to shoot the ace using a football," said team manager Cathy Rivilla in jest. *Musong R. Castillo*

Eagles seek 6th straight vs Maroons

GAMES TODAY *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
9:30 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Srs)

THE ATENEO Eagles, who had long shaken off their horrible start, shoot for their sixth straight win when they tackle the University of the Philippines' Maroons in the UAAP basketball tournament today at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Eagles' blowout losses early in the season against the La Salle Archers and the Far Eastern Tamaraws seem like a faint memory now to Ateneo coach Norman Black and even to UP mentor Lito Vergara.

"We'll be playing teams that are all Final Four potentials in our last games," said Vergara. "We have to be aggressive. Our bench players have just been watching our first five and I told them we have to help our first unit."

The Eagles and the Maroons both plan to dominate the paint when they clash at 4 p.m., right after 1:30 p.m. duel between the Adamson Falcons and the National University Bulldogs.

"They really want to get the ball inside as much as possible and they're a pretty good defensive team," said Black of the Maroons. "We've been working on our post defense."

But Ateneo and UP both relied on their smallest men in their recent wins.

LA Tenorio, arguably the league's top point guard, fired 12 of his 17 points from beyond the arc during the Eagles' 71-58 thumping of the Falcons while playmaker Marvin Cruz delivered his best performance of the season in the Maroons' 72-67 victory over the Bulldogs.

Cruz shot a game-high 21 point and collected 13 rebounds and seven assists.

"They won and their confidence level will be pretty much higher than it was in their last game against UST," said Black. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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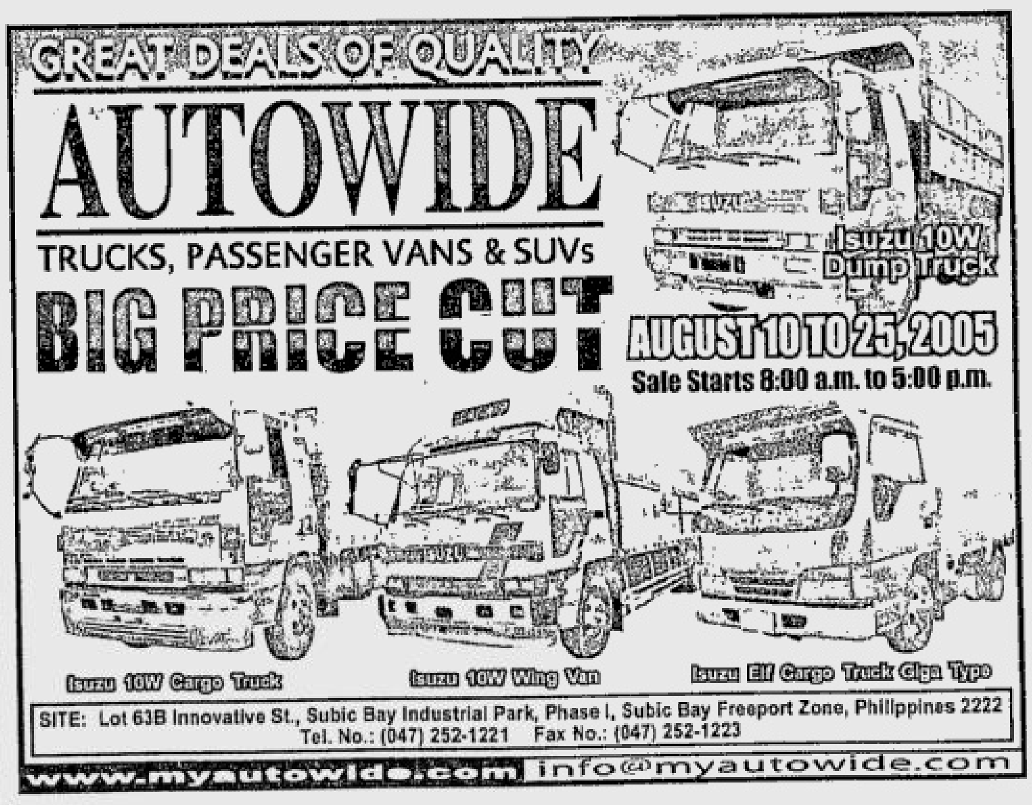

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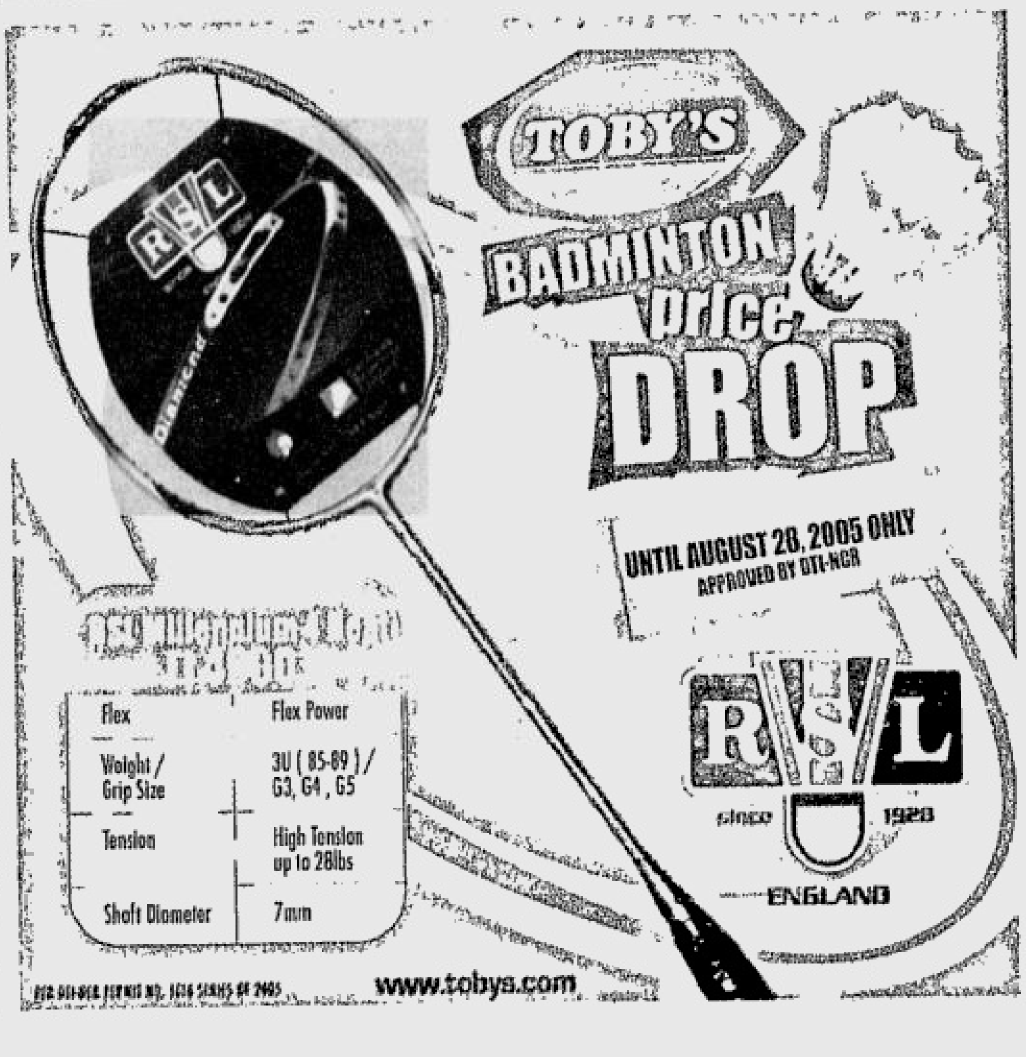

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Morales carves his place in RP racing

ROSARIO, Batangas—Renan Morales is fast turning out to be the country's most exciting racer—both on four and two wheels.

He proved this once again with masterful victories in both the Road Racing Championships and the National Junior Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here recently.

Even though he is just a first-timer in the motorcycle scene, Morales ruled the initial race of the RRC with a time of 19:48.065, defeating by almost eight seconds Jay Cortez.

Placing third was Hubert Soriano while Juan Carrion emerged fourth. Jotle Viray settled for fifth.

It would have been a double RRC victory for Morales, who is supported by Paragon Brokerage Corp., RPM Racing, Bridgestone and Shift Racing.

In the second race, Morales repeated his mastery of Cortez, winning by 13 seconds. But Morales, a Hirano Racing Team standout, and eventual third-placer Soriano had earlier jumpstarted their racing machine ahead of everybody else at the starting points of the second race. As a result, the two were slapped a fine of 15 seconds, allowing Cortez a two-second victory via technicality.

"You cannot allow yourself to be distracted by that infraction. It's all just part of the game," said Morales, who leads the RRC after ruling two of the event's first three races. "You have to learn from this mistake, and then go on."

Morales went on to familiar territory in the NJTC, posting a double victory in rounds 6 and 7.

Morales, who also dabbles in Asian Formula 3 racing, credited his victories to his intense preparations before plunging into competition.

MORALES displays his trophy.

Solons boost SEAG fund by ₱20 million

By Musong R. Castillo

FINALLY, help is coming in.

Pledges amounting to P20 million were made by 16 members of the lower house yesterday in a much-needed shot-in-the-arm for the hard-pressed Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee.

Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros made the announcement after Congress' Youth and Games Committee head Renato Unico of Camarines Norte led the way by promising a substantial sum coming from his Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) or pork barrel.

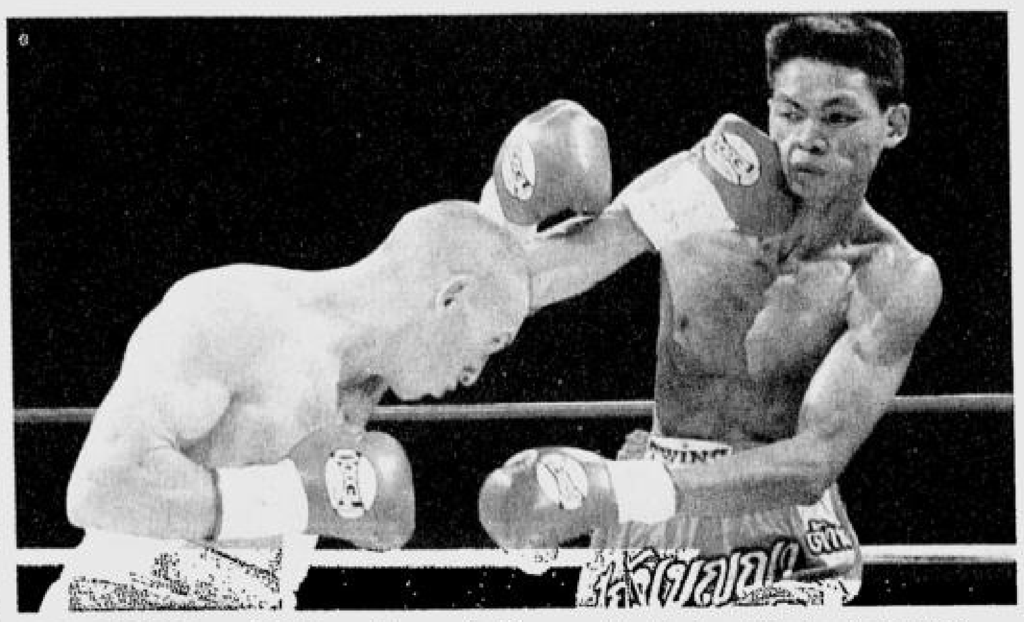
Though the collective amount was only a fraction of the total that the Philsoc needs to raise to stage the 23rd edition of the Games, officials said the act could lead other legislators to do their share in saving the SEAG.

The Philsoc needs at least P1.2 billion to host the event successfully and it now has a total of P620 million counting the P300 million that it got from Globe, PLDT and the Lucio Tan Group and the P300 million from President Macapagal-Arroyo's Social Fund.

Hontiveros said that the POC will meet with representatives of the Department of Budget and Management on Sept. 10 to discuss how the Philsoc can avail of the pledges from the lawmakers.

"This is just the start," Hontiveros said. "That amount can still get bigger."

Hontiveros met with Unico at the Century Park Hotel together with POC president and Philsoc CEO Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and weightlifting president and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.



HARD BLOW: Australia's Ahmed Elomar (left) connects to the jaw of Thailand's Denchai Tiabkoon during their IBO Asia Pacific featherweight fight in Sydney, Australia, Wednesday. Elomar won by technical knockout, two minutes and 17 seconds into the second round. AP

2 new taekwondo rules up

SUDDEN death is now in the vocabulary of taekwondo.

The combat sports South Korea introduced in the 1988 Olympics has recently approved two new rules including the sudden-death round in case of a tied match.

The general assembly of the World Taekwondo Federation also approved the two-minute round for senior men's division to speed up action. The new rules are expected to be implemented in the November Southeast Asian Games here.

The sudden-death round will be played after a one-minute rest period following the tie in the third round.

The first player to score a valid point will be declared winner. If nobody gets to score after the round, the officials will judge the match by superiority.

The new rule on shorter rounds for senior men's division is aimed at encouraging the players to be proactive and engage in attacks. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Barako: From Bull to Eagle?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A MAJOR trait of a good coach is his uncanny ability to spot a player that cannot just help his team win games but, more importantly, make his team champion, if not all of the time, most of the time.

Pat Riley is one. Phil Jackson is another.

With Magic Johnson, Pat Riley kept making the Los Angeles Lakers NBA champions in the '80s.

With Michael Jordan, Phil Jackson kept making the Chicago Bulls NBA champions in the '90s.

In the PBA, one coach with an eye for talent is Yeng Guiao. Look, the Barako Red Bull coach has done it again—collar superstar-potentials Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia of Ateneo from the draft.

Anybody worth his salt will tell you Fonacier has the makings of a PBA star. He can shoot from both near and far, he can guard, he can rebound. No wonder TNT owner Manny V. Pangilinan, also an Atenean, has rued his team's inability to snare Fonacier.

As for Bugia, well, ask any UAAP buff and the quick answer is: He's the center tailor-fit for PBA play. His potential is that immense and—yes, I'm not surprised one bit—only Yeng Guiao was able to spot that. A rough diamond waiting to be polished.

With three Blue Eagles (Fonacier, Bugia and, yes, Enrico Villanueva) now with Barako, only Rich Alvarez (Alaska) and Wesley Gonzales (FedEx) are the ones lacking to complete a virtual Ateneo starting five for Red Bull. If that should happen soon, we might as well change Barako Red Bull's name to Barako Blue Eagles.

What do you think, Yeng?

***

A favorite pastime of mine these days, aside from the Two Gs (golf and gardening), is jamming. I sing impromptu in bars accompanied by Sixties-sound bands once in a while. Good therapy, too, you know.

Twice already, I almost put up my own band, with Caloy Rufo as my lead guitar and Martin Engracia the bass guitar. But each time, hitches ditched both attempts. Time has always been the problem. Having a band is peanuts. It's maintaining it that entails various hiccups.

The last attempt was almost successful. I had a name for the band already: Boys. That's from the Beatles' song, "Boys." But my chief partner, a fellow Beatlemaniac, begged off at the last minute.

"No time *talaga*," he said.

I understood. He is a top executive of a giant company.

I almost pushed through with the band without him and had planned to change the band's name from Boys to Help (another Beatles song).

Again, it got botched.

Maybe, when I finally put up one, I'll call it Quinks. That's to differentiate it from Kinks, the Sixties band that popularized "You Really Got Me."

And speaking of the Sixties, Gary Lewis and The Playboys will perform in Manila on Oct. 28. Steve O'Neal is looking for Gary Lewis' daughter, Sandra. Reportedly, Sandra Lewis has her own band here. Paging Sandra. Please call Steve at 09175257778 because he's going to include you in the show. And, if I get the luck to finally put up my Quinks band before Oct. 28, I might yet join you on stage, Sandra.

Our first song would be, "Tired of Waiting."

***

Since Rockwell is considered my second home in Metro Manila, I will never miss its Vintage Bazaar Aug. 27-28, a treasure trove of classic Bohemian, Moroccan and Indian finds.

Shades of ukay-ukay?

The bazaar is Power Plant's version of the well-loved Bohemian and Moroccan merchants selling accessories, antiques, crafts, collectibles, clothing, tools, home décor, wellness and beauty products, among others.

The last time I went to Baguio's ukay-ukay, I got myself a golf shoes and an Italian sports jacket that were almost brand-new. Who knows at the Rockwell bazaar, I may yet dig up a walking shoes worn by Freddie Mercury, whose "Bohemian Rhapsody" I consider the best rock song of all time.

This is a no-miss for me.

***

FASTBREAK. My childhood friend, now Philcoa Deputy Administrator Caloy Carpio, will unveil his much-awaited National Coconut Week today at SM Megamall. Caloy, also a band member like me when we were in high school, said the Cocofest will feature, among others, seminars on the famed curing miracles of the virgin coconut oil. Running till Aug. 28, this is a must-see not only for coconut agribusiness enthusiasts but also for all coconut juice lovers like me. To me, coco-juice is still the best drink—next only to beer.

Adidas Asian Streetball finals up Sept. 3-4

THE Adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2005 returns to the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 3-4 with a promise of exciting 3-on-3 action among top teams from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea and the Philippines.

Portland Trailblazer point guard Sebastian Telfair will grace the event that will determine the Asian champion.

Boys' and girls' squads from five regions will compete for the Asian championship in the tournament, which will also feature a slam-dunk contest, 3-point shootout and other side events.

"Adidas is committed to becoming the basketball leader in Asia Pacific," said Christopher Bezu, CEO of Adidas Asia-Pacific. "We wish not only to facilitate basketball skill development among Asian teens but to promote the globalization of the sport through our grassroots programs and events such as the Streetball regional finals."

The Philippines will be represented by San Beda College and West Negros College in the boys division while Holy Angel University-Pampanga and University of Mindanao will don the RP colors in the girls side.

Adidas has confirmed Telfair's arrival on Sept. 1. The 6-foot Trailblazer was a first round draft pick last year, and averaged 6.8 points and 3.3 assists in his rookie season.

SPORTSWATCH

Cebu ladies lead Luzvimin tilt

CEBU—Host Cebu Country Club banked on its jungolfers to inch ahead by three points over defending champion Manila Southwoods in the Diamond division at the start of the 13th Luzvimin Invitational golf tournament here. Uy, fresh from campaigning in the Junior World championships in San Diego, carded 51 points, equivalent to a three-over-par 75, as Cebu pooled a 186 in the Diamond division. Maite Unchuan and another junior player Hannah Wong both tallied 48 points while Jyra Wong, also a jungolfer, netted a 39. Lora Roberto delivered 50 points for Manila Southwoods but drew little support in the event organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines. Carmelette Villaroman had 47, Claire Ong chipped in 46 and Beachie Abiera tallied 40 for Southwoods which finished with 173 points.

RP versus Russia on ABC 5 today

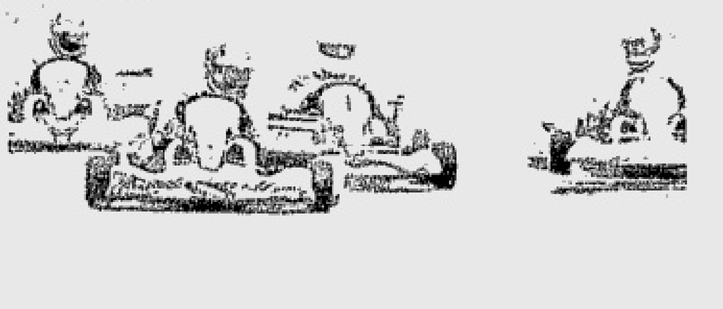
THE EXPLOITS of the RP men's basketball team against Russia in the Jones Cup will be shown today at 7 p.m. over ABC-5. The PBA-backed national squad's penultimate game against Taipei will be aired on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. ABC Sports will also broadcast the semifinal of the 9-Ball World Pool Championships today at 4:30 p.m. while day 3 of the US Senior PGA Championships will be replayed at 11 in the evening. The final day of competitions in the Senior PGA will be aired tomorrow at 11 p.m. ABC Sports has reserved its 11 p.m.-midnight slot during weekdays for golf shows and tournaments.

Ringside TV features newcomers

GINEBRA San Miguel's Ringside TV boxing will be shown from 3-4 p.m. today on ABC-5. Frankie Escaner, making his first professional fight, takes on newcomer Richard Ignacio over four rounds at 108 lb. Escaner is the younger brother of Philippine junior featherweight king Alex. Presented by Galorde Enterprises Inc., with ABC-5 and supported by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes, Rhyan Soliveres collides with Jose Samson Martin in another interesting newcomers' bout scheduled for four rounds at 112 lb. These fights will be seen by Pinoy boxing fans in the USA, Canada and Japan through Mabuhay Channel.

Nuqui fires 8 triples as Sta. Rosa wins

MIKE Nuqui set a career record by shooting eight-of-eight three-pointers Tuesday to power Mayor Joey Katindig's Sta. Rosa-Spring past the Pio-Makati Stars, 95-90, in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Washington gym in Makati City. Nuqui finished with 29 points, also a career high, as his team co-owned by Spring Cooking Oil's Johnny de Jesus posted its third win in four games. MC Caceres and John Roda added 22 points each for Spring. In the other game, Far Eastern Insurance-Cavite of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar subdued Boy Bawang, 78-75. Former Adamson Falcon Mark Abadia sank the free throws which clinched the victory for FEI-Cavite in the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel. Veteran Rolly Basilides failed to bail out Boy Bawang when he missed his charities.



CLOSE RACE: Michele Bumgarner (front) tries to ward off Matteo Guidicelli (No. 1) in the final race. Both of them conked out later, leaving Mark Bumgarner (No. 5) the surprise champion of the premiere ICA Open class recently in the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Ekart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, recently.

Las Piñas Annual stagfest today

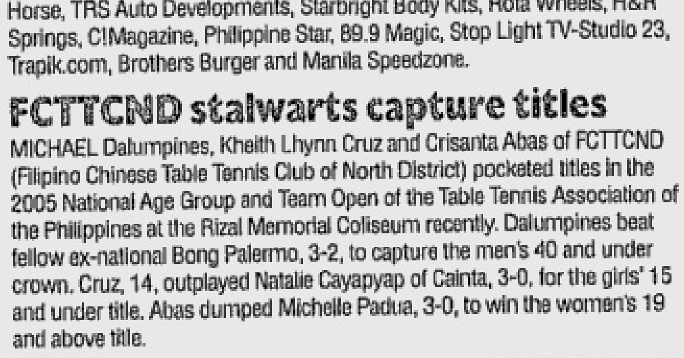
THE 2005 stagfighting season officially starts today via the "Annual Las Piñas 6–Stag Derby" at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Action starts at 4 p.m., featuring 83 fights with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Former Mayor Nene Aguilar is hosting the fund–raising affair. Among the invitees are Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Jet Fernando and Jingco Brothers of NCA, Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Rep. Butch Pichay and Rudy Albano of GCAP, Dicky Lim and Boy de Roca of San Juan Coliseum and Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and William Co of Makati Coliseum. For details, contact 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Marcelo favored in Lynx Cup series

JOHN Marcelo seems poised to take the title when the Tuason Racing School (TRS) Ford Lynx Cup Advanced Series concludes on Aug. 27 and 28 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Marcelo, who leads the series with 50 points going to the final leg, has chalked up two wins, three second places and one third place. He will be challenged by Ivan Carapiet and Pia Boren, who have amassed 42 and 40 points, respectively. The event is sponsored by Ford Group Phils., Smart-Addict Mobile, eStandard Insurance, Petron Ultron, Goodyear, Ambi Pur Car, Oakley, Adidas, Loctite, Red Horse, TRS Auto Developments, Starbright Body Kits, Rota Wheels, H&R Springs, C!Magazine, Philippine Star, 89.9 Magic, Stop Light TV-Studio 23, Trapik.com, Brothers Burger and Manila Speedzone.

FCTTCND stalwarts capture titles

MICHAEL Dalumpines, Kheith Lhynn Cruz and Crisanta Abas of FCTTCND (Filipino Chinese Table Tennis Club of North District) pocketed titles in the 2005 National Age Group and Team Open of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum recently. Dalumpines beat fellow ex-national Bong Palermo, 3-2, to capture the men's 40 and under crown. Cruz, 14, outplayed Natalie Cayapyap of Cainta, 3-0, for the girls' 15 and under title. Abas dumped Michelle Padua, 3-0, to win the women's 19 and above title.



TEAM CHAMP: The men's team of the Filipino-Chinese Table Tennis Club of North District won the team event title of the 2005 National Age Group of Table Tennis Association of the Philippines over the weekend. From left are Marco de Jesus, Ernesto Salvador, Michael Dalumpines, Philip Uy, Tatap president Victor Valbuena, Gregorio Lim, Gregorio Pascua, Seetian Salvador and Joel Sy.

Tour de France chief: 'Lance fooled all of us'

PARIS—Tour de France director Jean-Marie Leblanc has accused Lance Armstrong of deceiving the sports world and said that the seven-time champion owed his fans an explanation over new allegations that he used a performance-boosting drug.

In an interview with L'Equipe published on Wednesday, Leblanc praised the French sports daily, which accused Armstrong of using EPO to win his first Tour in 1999, for its investigation.

"For the first time—and these are no longer rumors, or insinuations, these are proven scientific facts—someone has shown me that in 1999, Armstrong had a banned substance called EPO in his body," Leblanc was quoted as saying.

"Today, what L'Equipe revealed shows me that I was fooled. We were all fooled."

Armstrong vehemently denied the allegations that appeared in L'Equipe on Tuesday.

The newspaper reported that six urine samples provided by the American during the 1999 Tour tested positive for EPO.

The drug, formally known as erythropoietin, was on the list of banned substances at the time but there was no effective test to detect it.

The allegations surfaced six years later because EPO tests on the 1999 samples were carried out only last year—when scientists at a lab outside Paris used them for research to perfect EPO testing.

The national antidoping laboratory in Chatenay-Malabry said it promised to hand findings to the World Anti-Doping Agency, provided they were never used to penalize riders.

L'Equipe's investigation was based on B samples—the second of two samples used in doping tests.

The A batch was used in 1999 for analysis at the time. Without those samples, any disciplinary action against Armstrong would be impossible, French Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour said.

The lab also said it could not confirm that the positive results were Armstrong's. It noted that the samples were anonymous, bearing only a six-digit number to identify the rider, and could not be matched with the name of any one cyclist.

Representatives for Armstrong said he was in Austin, Texas, where he lives, and did not wish to comment beyond a statement on his website.

"Unfortunately, the witch hunt continues and tomorrow's article is nothing short of tabloid journalism," Armstrong said in the statement. "I will simply restate what I have said many times: I have never taken performance-enhancing drugs."

AP

SOMEONE familiar with Manny Pacquiao's training will be helping out the foe of the Filipino superstar.

Pacquiao rival gets inside help

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

DESPITE being labeled a heavy underdog for his Sept. 10 showdown with pound-for-pound icon Manny Pacquiao, Mexican Hector Velazquez may have found a way to even up the odds with the Filipino superstar.

Velazquez will be leaning on a little inside information when he takes on Pacquiao in a 12-round bout.

Sources from Mexico revealed Velazquez's handlers are tapping Pacquiao's former sparmate, Fernando "Wary" Beltran Jr., to better prepare against the General Santos southpaw.

Beltran was one of Pacquiao's sparmates when the latter was preparing for his showdown with Erik Morales, and should be able to provide Velazquez some useful tips on how to deal with Pacquiao.

While Pacquiao has been a bit late in his training, Velazquez has been consistently reporting at the Cheto Torres Gym under trainer Raul Robles. The Mexican has yet to miss a single training session since his fifth-round technical knockout victory over Trinidad Mendoza last July 15.

"I expect a difficult fight, but I have confidence that I can beat Pacquiao, and I will throw blows that will break down his figure, and I will connect it down to take advantage of the fact that his guard his always up," Velazquez said in an interview with Mexican media.

"I always accepted fights on short notice and was always fighting out of my territory, and that was something that I always had to surpass in the past. Now it will be different because I have all the support to carry me to victory," Velazquez explained.

Martelino denies fielding 'old' players

By Musong R. Castillo

PHILIPPINE Basketball Federation president Mauricio "Moying" Martelino clarified that the Philippine team that saw action and won the championship in the 1970 Asian Championships for Junior Men in Korea was not disqualified.

Martelino issued the clarification to correct a report which quoted expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines legal counsel Boni Alentajan as saying that an RP team was disqualified for fielding over-aged players in the tournament.

A photocopy of the results of all the tournaments in the Asian Basketball Confederation's first 25 years was shown to the INQUIRER, with the Philippines, then represented among others by Yoyong Martirez, Estoy Estrada, Manny Paner, Rudy Soriano and William "Bogs" Adornado, winning the tournament in question.

"I hope that this clears things," Martelino said. "Never did I consent to sending a team full of overaged players during my tenure as sec-gen of the BAP."

Don Bosco opens title defense with 1-0 triumph

DEFENDING champion Don Bosco Technical Institute defeated DSWD/San Juan De Mata ES 1-0 at the start of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop football season at the Luisita football grounds in Tarlac City recently.

Striker Paolo Nikolo Baking scored the goal halfway through the second half.

In other day one results, San Miguel ES beat Tarlac West Central 3-2; CAT High School won 1-0 against Maliwalo High; while San Miguel High and CAT elementary school drew 2-2.

In a side event, Vernon Vergara of Don Bosco won the ball-juggling skills contest.

The games were preceded by a festive opening ceremony organized by the Football Association of Tarlac, headed by its president Glenn Troy Caritativo.

The opening spectacle was participated by the color officers of the Maliwalo National High School, the drum and lyre bands of the San Francisco Elementary School, Sapang Tagalog Elementary School and San Nicolas Elementary School.

Cheer dancers of the Tarlac National High School of Performing Arts also performed in the pre-tournament program. Special guests in the affair included PFF deputy general secretary Nonnoy Carpio and Luisita's marketing manager Girlie Gregorio.

The 2005 PFF-Red Ribbon U-15 Championships is being organized by the Football Association of Tarlac and supported by City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Luisita Center, Adidas, SuperFerry, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go, Petron, Pagcor Sports, Unicef and radio station NU 107, the home of new rock.

New bag gives clubs long life

A SPORTING goods company has come up with an innovative golf bag that will help reduce damage to golf clubs by reducing motion while it is being toted for a round of golf.

The new Proline golf bag has added a Grip-Lok technology that keeps clubs in place during a round of golf and reduces the rattling of club heads and shafts inside the bag.

This drastically reduces damage to the golf clubs.

"The Proline Grip-Lok addresses all of the concerns of golfers with their bags," said Joven Babaan of Proline Sports Center.

Golfers can even carry the Proline Grip-Lok Golf Bags upside down and not worry about their clubs falling off. The bag also prevents the clubs from rattling even during rough rides on golf carts.

The unique Grip-Lok mechanism in the base of the bag secures the grip, centers the shaft and stabilizes the club head.

Babaan said the Grip-Lok system is not available as an add-on option because it has to be fitted correctly and bag manufacturers vary.

The Proline Grip-Lok is available in all branches of Proline Sports Center in Metro Manila.

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Apo Hiking Society in Las Piñas show

STARMALL Las Piñas presents "Apo Hiking Society: One More Time" on Saturday.

Danny Javier, Jim Paredes and Buboy Garovillo have been performing together as the Apo since the early 1970s.

They have just returned from their second US tour, which included shows in California, Oregon, Nevada, Georgia and Texas. They also recently performed in Bahrain and Kuwait.

Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are at P500 and P300. Call 872-5249.

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	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
LONGEST YARD 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE LONGEST YARD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
VALIANT 12:45 / 3:20 / 5:55 / 8:30	SKELETON KEY 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	MUST LOVE DOGS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30	BEWITCHED 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ THE GREAT RAID 11:30 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00	❹ VALIANT 12:00 / 2:35 / 5:10 / 7:45
❷ THE LONGEST YARD 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05	❺ D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
❸ THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS August 25, Thursday 7 pm	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE OPENING GAMES August 26, Friday
Aug 27 UST vs Adu Jrs 9:30am ADMU vs UE Jrs 11:30am Sunday UST vs Adu Srs 2pm ADMU vs UE Srs 4pm	SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V September 2, Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENT	*Ali Mall Fashionista Fair ongoing until August 31. Thrifty meets trendy! Score the coolest looks while still going easy on your wallet.*
PERFORMANCES	*Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Drive from 9 to 11pm featuring Sandra Lim & JFK on August 26 and Affinity with Cooky Chua on August 27*
EXHIBIT	*Ford Libis Display ongoing until August 28 at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

SHOW TIME

Tonight

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Reuben Laurente at CCP Silangan Hall, 10 p.m.

K and the Boxers at Ratsky Malate

Rhythm and Blue at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

Jonathan Badon at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Lounge

Chickitas at SM Southmall

Rockin' Revival at Merk's

Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square

Zyncxation at Suburbia with Heptagon

Infloence at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel

Alana and Friends at 19 East. Call 837-6903.

Tomorrow

Erik Santos at SM Baguio

The CompanY in "Mahal Kong OPM" at the Philamlife Auditorium with guests Kim Flores and Beth Martin. Call 891-9999.

Version 2.2 Monster Upgrade (The RX Anniversary Party Year 22) at The Dish, ABS-CBN.

Latin Fridays at the Gateway Mall with Cadio, Guarana and UPJLE with Skarlet.

Onda Latina at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

Bloomfields at The Bellevue Hotel for a wine-tasting and concert event in one.

Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla together in "Diva 2 Diva" at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental. Call 721-0635.

Malu Barry at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Lounge

K and the Boxers at Ratsky Morato

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mwah! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Freeverse and Twisted Pair at Suburbia with DJ Arbie, DJ Fatbone, Seven Shots of Wisdom and Jego for the after-12 house party.

Nina at Heritage Hotel

Route 70 at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel

True Faith and Judith Banal at 19 East. Call 837-6903.

Rockstar INXS Local Search at Hard Rock Café, 8 p.m. The winner of the Rockstar INXS Local Search will get a chance to fly to L.A. to watch the Rockstar INXS grand finals on Sept. 20.

2ND 'ASTIG' COMEDY DAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

IT'S THE PRISONERS VS. THE GUARDS
ADAM SANDLER CHRIS ROCK
THE LONGEST YARD
COLUMBIA PICTURES
THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK

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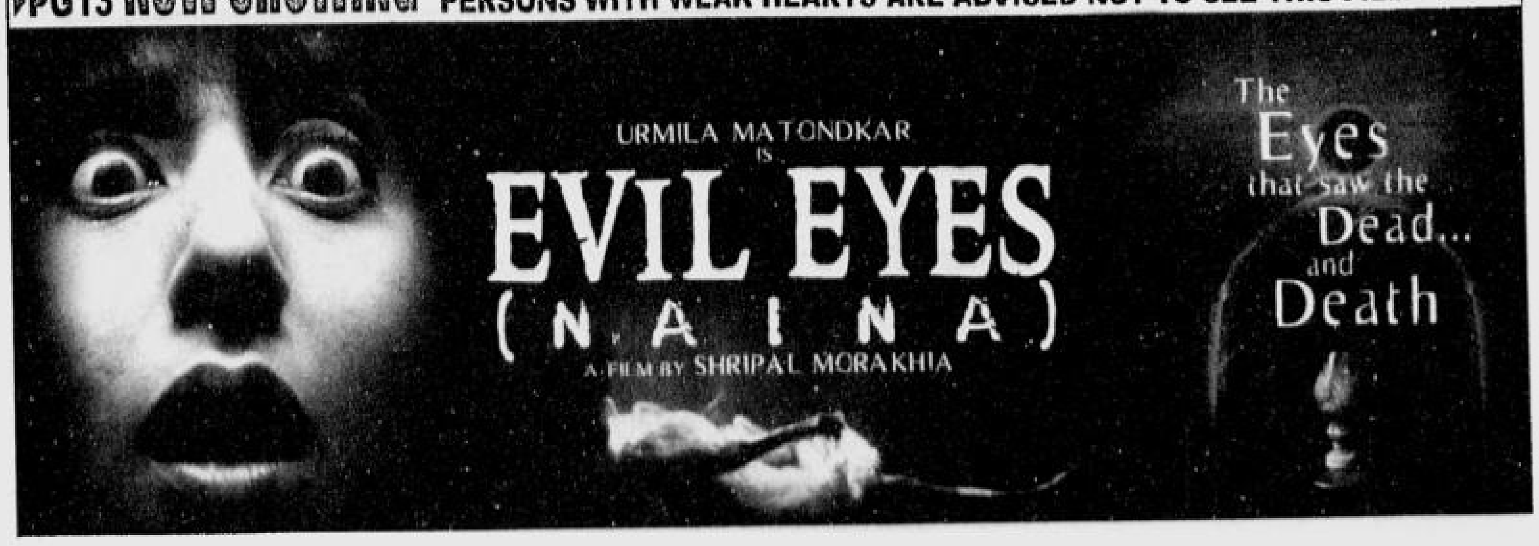
MTRCB RATING ▶PG13 NOW SHOWING A SPINE-CHILLING EXPERIENCE WITH THE SUPERNATURAL.
PERSONS WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SEE THIS FILM ALONE


URMILA MATONDKAR IS
EVIL EYES
(NAINA)
A FILM BY SHRIPAL MORAKHIA
The Eyes that saw the Dead... and Death

At Jean Garcias birthday bash, no Joey Marquez or Jomari Yllana

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I BELIEVE in the two-party system. Party on Friday and on Saturday! Revel with a cause! That's what I did last weekend.

First stop was **Jean Garcia's** birthday celebration at the Carrera Bar. Jean and I had fun reminiscing. We've been friends since her "That's Entertainment" days. Funny that she once thought I was a lesbian because I'd send her gifts even when there was no special occasion. We had a good laugh recalling the time that our "significant others" were brothers.

Her party was not too show biz. She invited only her closest friends like **Cherry Pie Picache, Yul Servo, Frederick Peralta Maribeth Bicahara, Meryll Soriano, Direk Wenn Daramas, Jaime Fabregas** and her ex, **Gardo Verzosa.** It was heartwarming to see them still so chummy. Not all ex-lovers manage to cross over smoothly from love to friendship.

I sensed no friction between Gardo and Jean's *unica hija* (Jenica). Some nasty rumors have been circulating that the cause of their split-up was Jenica's disapproval of Gardo. Her rumored suitors, **Joey Marquez** and **Jomari Yllana** were nowhere in sight.

But while admitting she was loveless at the moment, the birthday girl was still aglow. **Jaime Fabregas** put it so aptly when he told the guests to raise their glasses and toast Jean saying, "It's not how many times you fall off your horse but how you get up after that matters!" Who knows? Maybe Jean's knight in shining armor is now on his horse and he'll soon ride off with Jean into the sunset.

Dedication

The other bash I attended was the first birthday and "dedication" of my fave couple **Cesar Montano** and **Sunshine Cruz's** youngest daughter **Samantha Angelene,** at Edsa Shangril-la.

It felt like I (Hello Dolly) was in Hello Kitty land (enough of Hello Garci!). The ballroom was transformed into a kiddie Kingdom. I enjoy watching celebrity parents fuss over their kids. It's during their unguarded moments as doting dads and moms that stars are really themselves. It's refreshing to see stars who are usually the center of attention take a back seat and focus on their kids.

Some of the celebrity parents I spotted with their tots were **Dingdong Avanzado** and **Jessa Zaragosa, Tirso** and **Lyn Cruz, Karla Estrada, Richard** and **Ronni Merck, Bayani** and **Lhen Agbayani.**

Buboy and Shine are expecting their third daughter in September, whom they will name **Angelene Francesca** (all their babies' names have Angelene 'cause of Shine's striking resemblance to Angelina Jolie).

"Tatlong Maria! Okay lang even if we don't have a boy yet. After I give birth, I will take a rest from having babies 'cause super-delicate *ako magbuntis,*" says Shine.

The proud mom rambled on " Both are kids are daddy's girls. I'm so lucky to have a husband like Buboy who's a hands-on dad. Our eldest is like me *sa ugali pero yung pagk a-pilya niya nakuha niya kay* Buboy. Our youngest took after Buboy especially when she's mad."

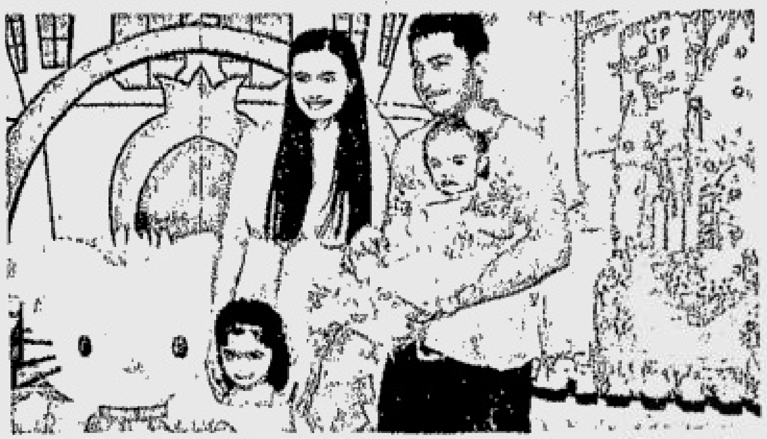
They will surely miss Buboy when he leaves for the US to pursue his Hollywood dream. After his much acclaimed performance in "The Great Raid," things are looking up for Buboy in the international scene. He told me that he was still scouting for the best agent in Hollywood.

"Over there, your agent who's the key to everything." With his talents, I'm sure agents will be the one hounding him.

He'll be back on Sept. 16 in time for a concert with **Rico J.** and **Willie Revillame.** I went home feeling happy for Shine and Buboy and I also felt an indescribable joy 'cause it's happy couples like them who restore my belief in love and marriage.

Bits and pieces

A close friend of **Piolo Pascual** revealed to me that Piolo has a big crush on **Toni Gonzaga.** Maybe they can be paired off in a movie to start the ball rolling and the rumor mills churning, huh?!



THE MONTANOS—Angelina Isabel, Sunshine, Cesar and Samantha Angelene

At the get-together dinner of "Extra Challenge" participants held at the condo of **Ralph** and **Renz Fernandez** (sons of LT and Daboy, who were included in "EC's"anniversary Luz-Vis-Min race), the rumored girlfriend of **Dennis Trillo,** Bb. Pilipinas **Carlene Aguilar,** dropped by. Dennis had said in previous interviews that they had parted ways so perhaps they just wanted to hang out. My source told me that Dennis kissed Carlene not on the cheeks or the lips but on her forehead! Ain't that sweet? A kiss is still a kiss, especially when it comes from a heartthrob like Dennis.

Are **Aliya Parcs** and **Vince** (of South Border) playing beautiful music together even offstage? Heard that South Border got an offer from Columbia to record an album in the US They will be quartered in a secluded house as they wait for divine inspiration to hit them so they can come up with even more beautiful songs. Now the band that started in the South is ready to conquer North, East,West and the rest of the world!!

KUDOS to my dear colleague **Ricky Lo** and my *pangga* **Melanie Marquez** for the phenomenal ratings of their "Showbiz Stripped." Even in its late-night slot, it hit the all-time high rating of 13.6!

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

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CINEMA 3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE - PG13 11:55, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4 VALIANT GP 10:50, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20
CINEMA 5 LONGEST YARD PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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September 2 & 3 MOJO FLY 8:30PM
Sept 15,22,23,24 JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" 9PM
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OPENS AUGUST 31
AMERICA'S 1ST BIG MOVIE FOR FALL OF 2005

PREDATORS OF THE DEEP
ENORMOUS MOUTHS.
LARGE FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE

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FOR LOVE
FOR HONOR
FOR COUNTRY
VALIANT
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THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE IN MANILA!

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A "MUST-SEE" LAUGH-OUT-LOUD ROMANTIC-COMEDY FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER WITH THEIR LOVED ONES.

jennifer love hewitt
dougray scott
jimi mistry
the truth about love
How far would you go to test your man?
How far would you go to keep him?

'Nerbiyos' breakdown, genital liars and other boob-tube booboos

Why wet weather is 'prevailent'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Were you always as religious as you are now?

Guest: Not really.—Although I do remember weekly attending Mass as a very early child!

(And now you're—a very late adult?)

* * *

Host: Why do you recommend that we as much as possible use rain water to shampoo our hair?

Guest: Because it's the best way to soft your hair.

(Ah, soft ...)

* * *

Host: Tell us about your concert this weekend.

Guest: Oh, it's so fun—with so many *sangkatutok* na production number!

(*Ay, sangkatutok!*)

* * *

Host: What other tips do you have for young mothers about good child care?

Guest: One more thing: to keep baby cool, keep him always in loose fittings!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: The President's Sona speech was mostly in English. Do you think that was intentional, that she was not addressing her speech to the masses?

Guest: No, I don't think she.

(*—Bitin!*)

* * *

Host: Why was (name of star) dropped from your production?

Guest: Because, frankly, she had a *nerbiyos* breakdown.

(*Ay, nerbiyos* breakdown!)

* * *

Host: Your travel book looks so good, so inviting to the tourist to visit our country!

Guest: Yes, thanks to the photos taken by some of the best and selected photographers in the land!

(Best and selected—what's that?)

* * *

Host: What will tomorrow's weather be like—more rains?

Weather girl: It's more of the same, I'm afraid. Wet weather will still be prevailent.

(*Oo nga naman*—if something prevails, it's prevailent!)

* * *

Host: You have been criticized for taking extreme security measures during the rally—

Guest: I don't think so, we just used some bobwire barriers, that's all.

(Bobwire barriers? *Ano 'yon?*)

* * *

Host: How are you feeling? I hear you're sick? What's wrong?

Guest: *Panay po akong natatrangkaso*—no, *hindi trangkaso. —Lagi po akong linalagnat*—no, *hindi lagnat*—

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: What are your pet peeves?

Guest: Well, you can imagine, in my field of politics, so many! But over and above all of them, what I really hate are the genital liars!

(Sir, *kulang ng* con—that's congenital liars!)

* * *

Host: These days, we hear about so many different groups' plans to save our country. Do you think any of them will work?

Guest: They're all too abstract. For them to work, they have to consider the giving of flesh of their ideas!

(Uh, come again?)

* * *

Host: How do you react when (name of star) is often mentioned as your biggest rival?

Guest: When we hear that, we just laugh. Because we know we don't complete against each other.

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: Of the two teams in the finals, who will emerge victorious?

Guest: Of course, our team—it's already tried and tasted!

(Yum, yum!)

On Animal Planet

AT 10 P.M. on Aug. 28, "Hunt for the Rarest Whale" focuses on beaked whales that are exceedingly difficult to locate. One species, indopacetus pacificus, has never even been seen alive, and descriptions are based solely on skeletal remains.

Little is known about their remarkable lifestyles—but conservationist Nan Hauser hopes to change all that. She has studied beaked whales for years, and her video clips provide viewers with a special window into the daily life of these elusive creatures.

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EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS
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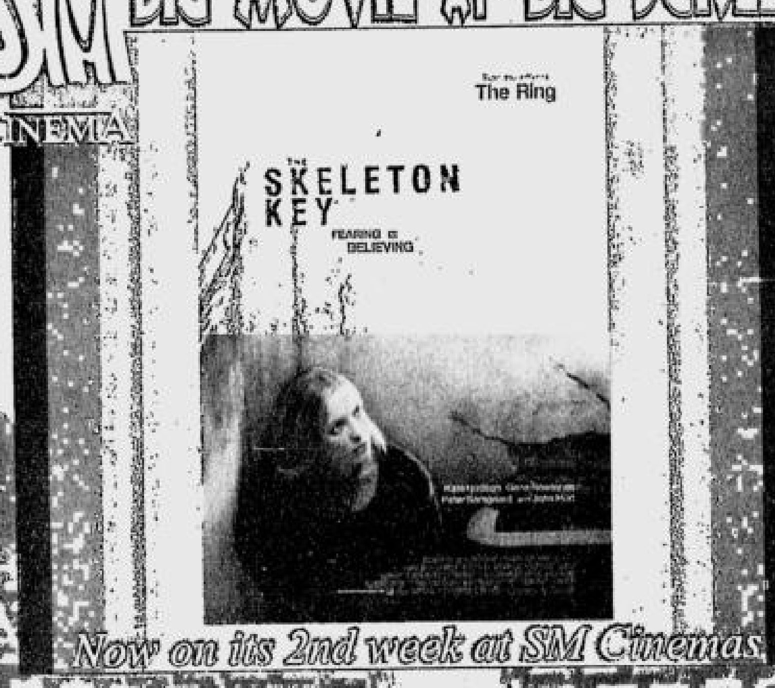
SM CINEMA BIG MOVIE AT BIG SCREEN



Now on its 2nd week at SM Cinemas

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In Q.C. - SM Sta. Mesa
In Q.C. - SM North Edsa
In Sta Cruz - SM San Lazaro
In Las Piñas - SM Southmall
In Cebu - SM Cebu

Big Shows Center Stage

Trumpets THE LITTLE MERMAID September 2005 SM Megamall Cinema 10
Martin Nievera I SING FOR YOU September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Southmall Cinema 3
Jasmine Trias Fil-American Idol LIVE IN CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUEST: SOUTHBORDER September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Megamall Cinema 10
Christine Bellen's MGA KUWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG August 25 -27 2005 September 1-3, 2005 10 am and 3 pm (with 7pm show on Saturday) SM Centerpoint Cinema 5
Actor's Actors, INC & Little Boy Production ONCE ON THIS ISLAND Directed by Bart Gungona August 27, 2005 Saturday • 8.00 pm SM Theater 2, SM City Cebu

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium 633-8976
1 LONGEST YARD 12:50FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/6:45 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 BEWITCHED 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/5:46/07:38 09:21FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 SKELETON KEY 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/5:46/07:38 09:21FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12 09:07LFS/09:30LFS/11:25END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 2ND SILENT FILM FEST
6 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
7 VALIANT
8 EVIL EYES
9 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 LONGEST YARD
11 SKELETON KEY
12 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 EVIL EYES
2 BEWITCHED
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 LONGEST YARD
8 VALIANT
9 SKELETON KEY
10 STEALTH
11 THE YE INFINITY
12 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

SM NORTH EDSA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 VALIANT
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID
7 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
8 VALIANT

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 BEWITCHED

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LONGEST YARD
2 VALIANT
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 BEWITCHED
7 TRUH ABOUT LOVE
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 EVIL EYES

SM CITY MANILA
1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 VALIANT
6 LONGEST YARD
7 ENTERPOOL
8 THE EYE INFINITY
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 BEWITCHED
12 EVIL EYES

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 LONGEST YARD
2 EVIL EYES
3 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LONGEST YARD
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 EVIL EYES
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
6 PUSANG GALA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 PUSANG GALA
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 EVIL EYES
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKELETON KEY
4 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 CRASH

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 ARAHAN
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 BEWITCHED
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 THE MACHINIST
2 IF ONLY
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 IF ONLY
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY ILOILO
1 CRASH
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 WEDDING CRASHERS
7 RESERVED
8 STEALTH

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 ARAHAN
5 PUSANG GALA
6 BEWITCHED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 BEWITCHED
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 ARAHAN

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FRITZ LANG
CLASSIC GERMAN SILENT MOVIES AS ACCOMPANIED BY 4 OF THE COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING MUSICAL ACTS

04 Aug METROPOLIS Music by Rubber Inc. / 11 Aug SPIES Music by The Sammy Asuncion Group / 18 Aug DR. MABUSE, The Gambler Music by Tots Tolentino and Buhay / 25 Aug DESTINY Music by Cynthia Alexander
SM Megamall Cinema 6, 8:00 p.m.
ADMISSION IS FREE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE LONGEST YARD MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00 LMF
2 VALIANT MTRCB GP 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE MTRCB R-13 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS MTRCB GP 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE MUST LOVE DOGS MTRCB PG-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Get one (1) FREE URBAN SPA Express Massage Coupon for every single purchase of four (4) tickets to THE LONGEST YARD at the Shang Cineplex from August 24-30,2005.
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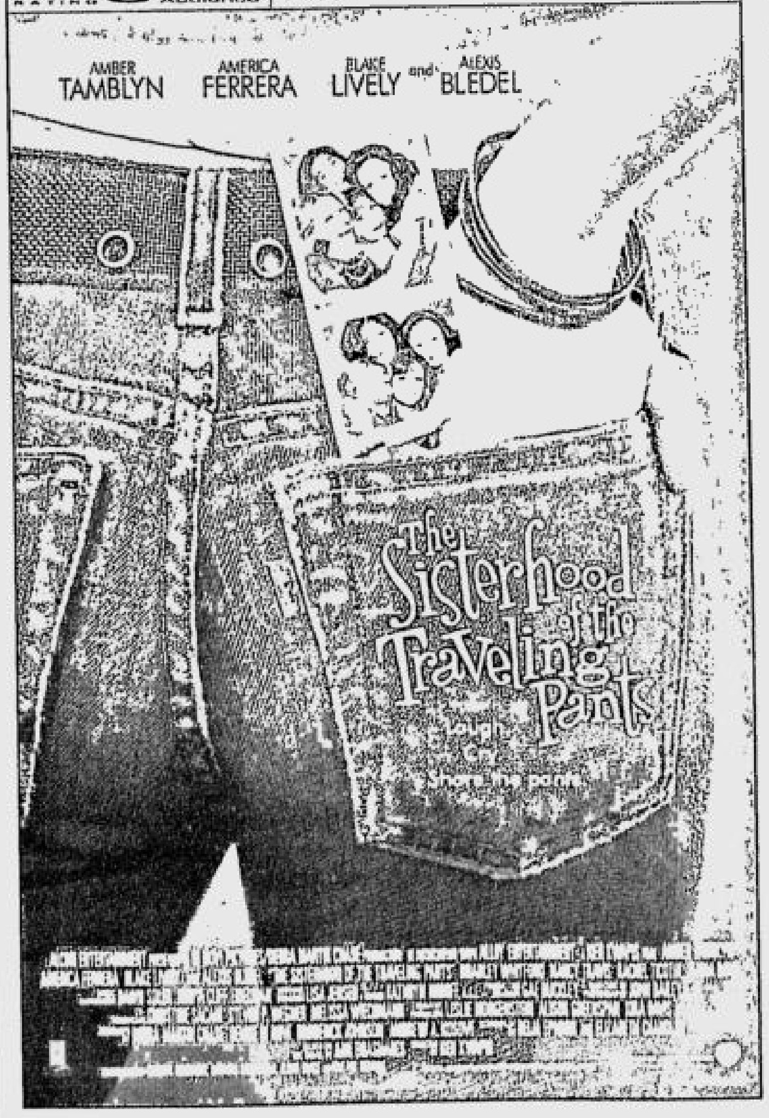

AMBER TAMBLYN
AMERICA FERRERA
BLAKE LIVELY and ALEXIS BLEDEL
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Share the pants

THE EDITING OF SEVERAL INTENSE SEQUENCES IS COMMENDABLE... WE CAN'T WAIT FOR SOME TRUTHS TO BE REVEALED...WATCH IT TWICE.
OLIVER M. PULUMBARIT - Philippine Daily Inquirer
2ND WEEK

MTRCB RATING PG-13
"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE." - Yahoo Movies
THE SKELETON KEY
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Kate Hudson Gena Rowlands
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- 1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
- 2 VALIANT
- 3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
- 4 THE GREAT RAID
- 5 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
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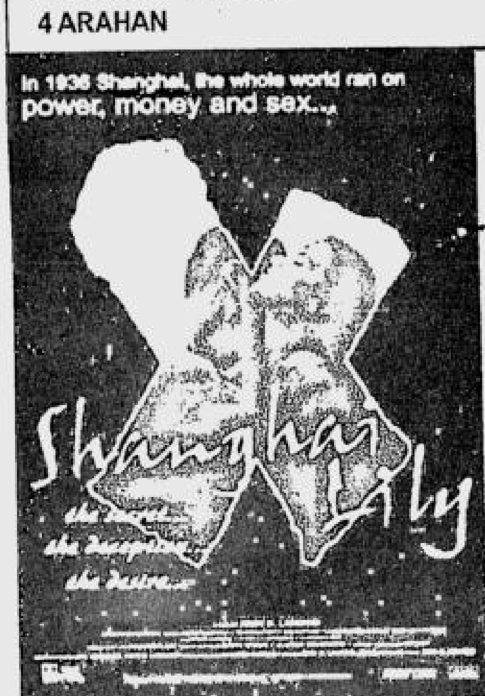
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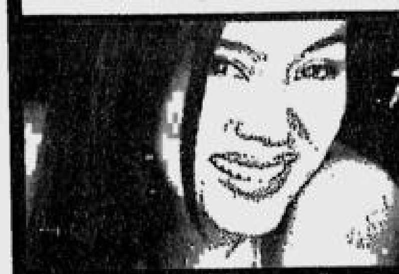

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Manderlay *Lars Von Trier (Denmark/USA, 2005)*
The second installment in a trilogy USA - Land of Opportunities, that began with Dogville. The story of slavery in the American South.
Golden Palm-Nominated - Cannes 2005

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol Lu Chuan (China, 2004)
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies (Finland, 2005)*
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives.
FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award - Göteborg Filmfest 2005
Special Jury Prize - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer (USA/Norway, 2005)*
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei *Directors Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge (Sweden, 2003)*
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal.
Blue Angel Silver Berlin Award - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan (Hong Kong, 1998)*
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman.
A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

Hawaii, Oslo *Erik Poppe (Denmark/Norway, 2004)*
The story of a handful of people who cross each other's path without necessarily knowing each other, during the hottest day of the year, in Oslo

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Still telling the story of the Pinoy on the street

LAZARO: "In the heat of things"

By Nini Valera

CHECHE Lazaro has hundreds more stories to tell and people to interview.

For 18 years, Lazaro, host of the first TV news magazine program "Probe," has been documenting the life of the Pinoy.

"The man on the street is the most interesting subject," Lazaro told INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday.

She said it was fine to interview celebrities like international terrorist Osama bin Laden and billionaire Bill Gates because "you get a rush."

"But when you sit down with them, like when I talked to Bill Gates, the richest man in the world, you realize they are just ordinary guys," Lazaro said.

Drawing out the true feelings of the man on the street is the test of a good interviewer, according to Lazaro, who has also sat down to chat with the likes of Edward Kennedy and John Kerry.

"Generally, I like to interview people who inspire," she said.

Right in there

Lazaro's determination in uncovering the truth is inspiring for television viewers who hunger for in-depth stories.

"As a broadcaster, I like being in the heat of things," she confessed. "That's why I went into broadcasting. My analogy there is that of a surgeon who knows all the scalpels and all the cuts but does not operate and wouldn't know if the person lives or dies," she said. "I have kept the patient alive."

Indeed, Lazaro has put those "scalpels" to good use—once in featuring a tropical export fishing corporation that engaged in dynamite fishing. Another time, she applied for a passport using fake credentials but got legitimate travel documents in two days. More recently, "Probe" faced libel raps filed by former Ilocos Norte representative Rodolfo Fariñas for telling the story of his alleged battered wife Maria Teresa Carlson, who committed suicide in 2002.

Award winner

The exposé on the Tropical Fishing Corp. hauled her and her whole staff off to court. The Fariñas case did not prosper. The passport fixing exposé triggered an investigation.

"I don't know what happened to that investigation," she said. "But we won the libel case filed by Tropical."

"Probe" has won numerous awards, including the bronze medal in the news magazine category of the New York International Festival of Television and Film.

"It would be false modesty if I said we didn't influence public perception," she noted. "I like to work in areas where I can make a difference."

Tonight, as "Probe" airs on ABS-CBN, Lazaro takes a look at how the political and economic crises are affecting three people—Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, game show host Willie Revillame and a public school teacher.

ROUNDUP

'Dubai' sets world preem

STAR Cinema's "Dubai," starring Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz will have its world premiere on Sept. 28 in Milan, San Francisco, Vancouver, Vienna and Manila. "Dubai" is a love story about overseas Filipino workers, directed by Rory Quintos from a script by Ricky Lee and Shaira Mella Salvador. The movie was filmed entirely in Dubai.

How to sell your script

LOS Angeles-based independent film producer Roger Garcia is in town to conduct a script pitch workshop today, from 1 p.m. onwards, at the Museo ng Maynila Ballroom. Admission is free.

Roger Garcia produced "The Big Hit" (Columbia TriStar), which starred Mark Wahlberg and Lou Diamond Phillips, as well as many short experimental films in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Museo ng Maynila is the former Army Navy Club, located at South Boulevard, Ermita, Manila just behind the Museong Pambata. Visit www.cinemanila.com.ph.

Mowelfund animation workshop

THE MOVIE Workers' Welfare Foundation Inc. will conduct a basic animation workshop during the 26th Manila International Book Fair from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 at the World Trade Center. The workshops are slated on Sept. 1, 2 and 4, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the WTC activity area. Call 890-0661 or 896-0682.

2005 MTV Pilipinas night

GARY Valenciano, Rivermaya, Sugarfree, Kitchie Nadal, Christian Bautista, Hale, Nina, Hannah of Session Road, Cueshe, Erik Santos, Rachelle Ann Go, Radioactive Sago Project, Junior Kilat and the UA&P Chorale lead an all-star cast at the 2005 MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Linda McCartney Award

NEW YORK—Alec Baldwin will receive the Linda McCartney Memorial Award at the animal rights group Peta's 25th anniversary gala in Hollywood, California, on Sept. 10.

Two years ago, Baldwin, then 45, narrated a short documentary, "Meet Your Meat," for the group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, that helped lead to policy changes at Burger King fast-food restaurants, Peta said.

The animal rights group said the video helped persuade Burger King to sever its ties to slaughterhouses that fail unannounced audits and to lend support to the Humane Slaughter Act.

Pamela Anderson and Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders are previous recipients of the award. McCartney, a dedicated vegetarian, died of breast cancer in 1998. *AP*

Phoenix denies breakdown

NEW YORK—Joaquin Phoenix has denied tabloid reports that he had a breakdown while filming a scene related to Cash's brother's death in "Walk the Line," the upcoming Johnny Cash biopic.

Phoenix, 30, banged his head on a bedpost during a scene in which Cash is going through drug withdrawal in an attempt to get into his character's emotional state. He was acting, not flipping out, he tells Newsweek magazine, now on newsstands.

His brother River Phoenix died of a drug overdose outside a Los Angeles nightclub in 1993 when he was 23. Cash also lost his older brother at a young age, but Phoenix sees no connection.

"I don't need to pull from my experience for a character, and I've never understood why actors would, except for lack of ability, imagination or research," he says. "I had all three things, so this is a little frustrating to me, because it denies my work and the research that I did."

"Walk the Line," scheduled for release in November, co-stars Reese Witherspoon as Cash's wife, June Carter. *AP*

'Once' in Cebu on Saturday

"ONCE on this Island" kicks off its provincial tour on Saturday at SM City Cebu, with homegrown talent Raki Vega playing the lead role, Ti Moune. The local production of the Laurence Olivier Best Musical is being staged by Actor's Actors Inc. and Little Boy Productions. Vega is supported by a powerhouse cast that consists of Bituin Escalante, Jett Pangan, Jeffrey Hidaldo, Michael de Mesa, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, May Bayot, Bodjie Pascua, Cathy Aranza and Gala Sanchez. Bart Guingona directs, and choreographer is by Denisa Reyes.

Aging but irrepressible Stones

BOSTON—The Rolling Stones launched into "Start Me Up" to kick off their latest North American tour at Boston's historic Fenway Park, a fitting venue and fitting opening song for the aging but irrepressible rockers.

Mick Jagger appeared as spry as ever, strutting across the giant stage on Sunday night.

It's been 43 years since the Stones first took shape and three years since they launched their "Forty Licks" world tour, which many mistakenly believed would be the last for Jagger, Keith Richards and the crew.

On Sunday, fans across the age spectrum converged on the baseball stadium for the concert, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the band's trademark lips and tongue logo.

The tour may well test the band's stamina. The three remaining original Stones — Jagger, Richards and drummer Charlie Watts — are 62, 61 and 64 respectively. Guitarist Ron Wood, now going on 30 years touring with the band, is the baby of the bunch at 58. *AP*

DAWN and Richard reunite to see their virtual child Amihan.

'Encantadia' devotees will see their departed favorites resurrected

JENNYLYN Mercado as Lira is now a warrior princess.

Journey back from Devas

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

REYES: "A device"

COLOR Chesca blue.

JAKE is Kahlil.

"WE DON'T compromise quality," declared TV director Mark Reyes, whose *tele-fantasya* "Encantadia" on GMA 7 continues to dominate the ratings game.

"We were supposed to shoot near an outdoor pond once, but it was raining outside. So we built a pond inside the studio," Reyes told INQUIRER Entertainment during a press visit to the set. The fully air-conditioned 1,900-sq.m. warehouse in Pasig is only one of five sets used in the *tele-fantasya*.

Encantadia, the empire, is divided into four kingdoms—Adamya, Lireo, Hathoria and Saphiro. The Adamya set, according to Reyes, is in Calatagan, Batangas, and the Hathoria set is in Kalinawan Cave in Tanay, Rizal. The forest of Lireo is around Daranak and Batlag Falls, also in Rizal.

In the coming episodes, viewers will see their favorite characters come back from a place called Devas. "For the fairies, it's the closest thing to heaven," Reyes explained. "But unlike heaven, which to us is ethereal, Devas is a place—an island guarded by a dragon. To get there, you have to pass through many obstacles."

Among the characters who will reemerge from Devas are Rakim (Richard Gomez) and Haring Armeo (Ian Veneracion).

"This is a dramatic device in fantasy soap operas," said the director. "You bring back somebody who has disappeared or passed away."

Dawn Zulueta, who took a break from the series because of a delicate pregnancy, is also back as Inang Reyna. "We don't want to tire her out," Reyes said. "So she has her own air-conditioned tent. She won't have any more fight scenes and she doesn't have to use the harness like before."

Dawn Zulueta

"Inang Reyna comes back to meet her daughters—Amihan (Iza Calzado), Danaya (Diana Zubiri), Alena (Karylle) and Pirena (Sunshine Dizon). My husband (Anton Lagdameo) didn't want me to come back to work. *Ako lang ang mapilit.*"

Richard Gomez

"Rakim has to help Ybarro (Dingdong Dantes). The young warrior needs someone to teach him how to fight well, with passion. Only then can the kingdom be saved. I didn't really die like the other characters. I was in Devas body and soul. I will have a few scenes with Dawn, including one where we meet up with our daughter, Amihan."

Ian Veneracion

"I play Haring Armeo, father of Ybarro. I'm being revived from the dead. I have a lot of fight scenes here, especially in the first few episodes."

Jennylyn Mercado

"My character, Lira, is now a warrior princess. She wears a new costume. Sometimes I forget that my warrior costume exposes my belly button. *Nakakahiya ['pag] marami akong kinain.* I have to control my appetite (laughs). I have very difficult fight scenes now, using the heaviest sword in the entire show. I think it weighs six pounds [but] I use a dummy when I rehearse."

IZA Calzado is Amihan.

Jake Cuenca

"I'm Kahlil, son of Ybarro and Alena. My character is kind of childish...oblivious to everything that's going on. But when its time to fight, I'm the best warrior there is. I worked hard to prepare for my fight scenes. I've wanted to do action ever since. For this project, I learned sword fighting."

Chesca Garcia

"Aure is a wind fairy, keeper of the Blue Stone. She comes from Devas. Aure also morphs into a bird. So when you see a dove with a blue streak on its head, that's my character. As her usual self, she wears a long white gown with gold and blue ribbons."

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Jollibee buying Red Ribbon for ₱1.7B

Lured by bakeshop's strength in RP, US marts

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. is acquiring 100 percent of specialty cakes maker Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

INQUIRER sources said Jollibee would conduct a due-diligence audit on Red Ribbon within the next 30 days to help set the final price for the acquisition. INQUIRER sources estimated the purchase price to be in the vicinity of P1.7 billion or $30 million.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Jollibee said it agreed to buy 100 percent of the local bakeshop from the original owners—the Moran and Mercado families. The acquisition will include all of the firm's operations in the Philippines and the United States.

Sources said Red Ribbon's strength in the United States would fit well into Jollibee's strategy to penetrate lucrative foreign markets.

They said the Mercado and Moran families decided to sell Red Ribbon due to "a change in their personal plans." They did not elaborate.

Alex Pomento, head of research of Macquarie Securities, said in a report that he estimated Jollibee would be paying Red

JOLLIBEE/ B2

Red Ribbon
BAKESHOP

RED Ribbon branch on Jupiter Street, Makati City.

RYAN LIM

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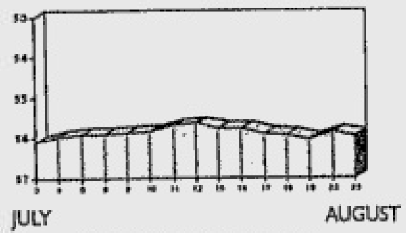

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As of 3 p.m., Aug. 24, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.01% lower

SHARE prices closed 1.01 percent lower on Wednesday due to concerns about the impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo as well as rising oil prices, dealers said.

They said many investors are also waiting on the sidelines for an expected Supreme Court decision on a vital expanded value-added tax (VAT) law. The court had suspended

SHARES/ B2

Gov't to issue ₱100B in retail treasury bonds

By Michelle V. Remo

MALACAÑANG has given authority to the Department of Finance to float up to P100 billion worth of retail treasury bonds (RTBs) in the local market to help complete the national government's funding requirements for the year.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said the DOF intended to auction the RTBs on different dates, with the first to be scheduled next month. The RTBs will have a five-year tenor.

But the finance official said the DOF was not likely to use up the entire P100 billion worth of authorized debt issue. "In the first auction, we will probably issue a maximum of only P40 billion," Tan told reporters.

He said the schedule of the other auctions and the amount of debt offering for each would be determined by the result of the first bond float. The DOF would try to get a feel of the market based on the volume of bids in the first auction to see how much more it could borrow.

The underwriters for the bond float are state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines.

Depending on the amount the government would raise from the bond issue, Tan said the Bureau of Treasury would have to adjust the amounts of its debt offerings through the regular auctions for treasury bills and bonds.

The Treasury, an attached agency of the DOF, currently auctions treasury bills every Monday and treasury bonds every Tuesday. For each treasury bill auction date, the government offers P2 billion each for the 91-, 182-, and 364-day bills. The government auctions P4 billion worth of bonds every week.

Tan said the DOF decided to float RTBs to take advantage of the high level of liquidity in the market. The DOF expects to gather a huge volume of bids for the issuance of the RTBs, considering its attractiveness to a larger number of investors.

For the past weeks, debt offerings through treasury bills and bonds have always been oversubscribed, indicating that the market can absorb more borrowings by the government.

RTBs, unlike the regular treasury bills and bonds, are designed for small investors, given that the debt paper only requires a minimum investment of P5,000 to allow small savers to participate.

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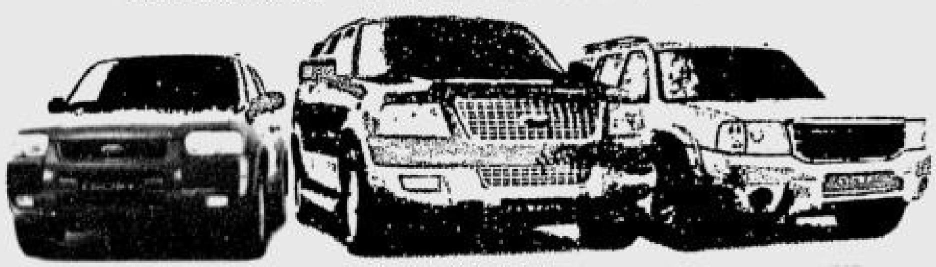

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Gov't plans $300-M bond flotation to buy out MRT 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration is planning to sell up to $300 million worth of long-term bonds to finance a possible acquisition of the assets and equity of the private sector group that owns Metro Rail Transit 3, according to government officials.

Malacañang recently created an inter-agency team to explore the possibility of buying out MRT 3 from Metro Rail Transit Corp., the private consortium headed by the Fil-Estate Group.

Prepaying MRTC had been proposed during the time of deposed President Estrada when the government renegotiated the build-least-transfer contract that the Ramos administration forged with the private group.

Transportation Undersecretary Guiling Mamondiong said the government could save almost $1 billion if it could buy out MRTC within next year, if not earlier. The savings would be in the form of avoiding paying interests over the remaining life of the contract, which is about 20 years.

For the MRTC consortium, which includes Ayala Corp., Ramcar Inc. and Anglo-Phil, it could mean getting a return on their equity now instead of in 20 years.

"The cost is estimated to range between $200 million and $300 million. But of course, a buyout would mean we would have to buy it at a discount because we are talking on the basis of net present value," a ranking finance official said.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza said the private group would welcome a prepayment proposal from the government.

"There were talks about a similar buyout proposal before but they didn't prosper. Our company is open to such a proposal. A win-win situation would have to be the basis of any buyout agreement," Daza said in an interview.

Under the build-lease-transfer arrangement between the government and the MRTC consortium that started in July 2000, the government must pay the private sector group a total of $2.4 billion over a 25-year period. The amount covers the equity plus the maintenance fees.

MRT 3, which runs the stretch of Edsa from North Ave. in Quezon City to Baclaran, was built with a $655-million funding. Of that, $465 million were loans being paid by the government and $190 million was the equity of MRTC. The contract provided a 15-percent return on the consortium's equity.

The monthly rental fee for the two components started only at $800,000 a month in 2000. Right now, it is at $3.3 million monthly because of the periodic increases allowed under the contract, according to MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso.

"By 2010, the monthly fee would be almost $10 million a month or $118.33 million a year. As much as possible, we want to complete the buyout this year," Lastimoso said.

Mamondiong noted that any bond issue or borrowing would have to be in pesos to avoid any currency risks.

Leaky in love

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I THINK I might know one big secret of the Securities and Exchange Commission on how it implements its new rules on business.

Well, actually, how the lucky SEC rams down its new rules on the throats of business!

From what I gathered on the alleged "problem" of the 30-year old College Assurance Plan, or CAP, the SEC's secret is simply that it leaks its secrets to media.

About three years ago, without much ado, thank you, the leaky SEC fell in love with insurance companies, and so it imposed new rules on their stiffest competitors, none other than pre-need companies like CAP.

In a way, the SEC wanted CAP to follow the rules for life insurance companies which, due to accidents, must set aside money for every policy they sell. Bright!

Our genius SEC, in other words, thought that a one-year old holder of a CAP college plan could, by accident, all of sudden tomorrow go to medical school.

* * *

FOR that was when the alleged "problem" of CAP actually started—when the genius SEC imposed the bright rules.

Look, CAP was a company with some P8.7 billion in trust fund, deposited with various banks, and as of 2003, its retained earnings already amounted to P7 billion. How was it in trouble? Well, it was in trouble with the SEC rules.

Under the rules, a new college plan sold by the CAP was automatically counted as a "liability," for which CAP must set aside a big portion of the plan's value.

The rules used the so-called ARL, or "actuarial reserve liability." It turned out that the ARL was the brainchild of a group known as Agile, which even held office at the SEC building.

Now Agile got a lot of help (i.e. its money) from the US AID. Whether Agile reported directly to an insurance group in New York, nobody knew then.

In reality, however, the so-called ARL already turn out to be stupid. Its prediction of CAP's liabilities for 2004, for instance, was off by almost 50 percent.

As I have been saying, if the SEC was the doctor, and it made that kind of mistake, the patient would have been long dead and smelling worse than my feet.

* * *

TODAY, anyway, the problem of CAP has turned into one of destroyed reputation. The public thinks it is going down, if it is not already down. You know, bankrupt!

Yet, the business of pre-need companies like CAP, precisely, relies on public trust. I mean, you give them money, and in return they give you a promise. If that is not about trust, then we have a six-footer President.

But what I am saying is, the SEC did not have to slam CAP in media all this time.

The genius SEC, you see, leaked information to media about the alleged "problem" of CAP, saying that the company for instance had "capital deficiency."

Deficiency? Based on what? Well, as it turned out, based on the way-off wrong stupid ARL that was devised by Agile with the help of some US groups.

The genius SEC leaked information to media, without saying that CAP was precisely contesting the rules. There was an ongoing debate between the SEC and CAP, in the past three years now, about the ARL.

CAP still tried to follow the SEC rules, and what's more, knowing its public reputation was at stake, it kept quite in media. The SEC leaked everything.

***

AND so what kind of an irresponsible regulator is that in the pre-need industry?

In banking, in comparison, knowing that anything it says about any bank can start a "run," the Bangko Sentral is always careful on leaks of information to media.

The genius SEC even did the leaking itself. The SEC used the media to impose its questionable agenda on a company that it was supposed to supervise—not murder.

Was there a plan somewhere?

Now, aside from the SEC's leaking info to hurt the company, certain senators even rode on the publicity to tell the public to stop paying for their CAP education plans.

"Letters To The Editor" came out in different newspapers, which all said the same things, basically noting that the senator only wanted CAP to solve its alleged "financial problem."

Now, I happen to know personally all the tricks in the newspapering racket such as those "letters to the editor." They could also be orchestrated.

If the senators wanted CAP to solve its problem, so that it can go on serving its hundreds of thousands of planholders, why then did they encourage the public to stop paying for their plan?

Simple, and it's because they wanted CAP to go down by creating a "run." They wanted to make the alleged "problem" of CAP, as imagined by the SEC (with the help of Agile), into a reality.

I just don't know how much is the "success fee" from New York.

* * *

SOME 50 doctors and dentists who have clinics at the Medico building near the former site of Medical City hospital at the Ortigas Center, are crying "foul."

It seems that the management of the building, which is owned by a corporation, which in turn has the same doctors and dentists as stockholders, cut the utilities—you know, the electricity, the water and the telephone.

Thus, senior citizens who want to see their doctors at the building must go up flights upon flights of stairs to the 5th floor.

Old people are mostly weak. And you know why old weak people go to the doctors, right? They are sick.

That's the situation at the Medico building.

* * *

IT SEEMS that the management of the building turned off all utilities because they wanted to close down the building.

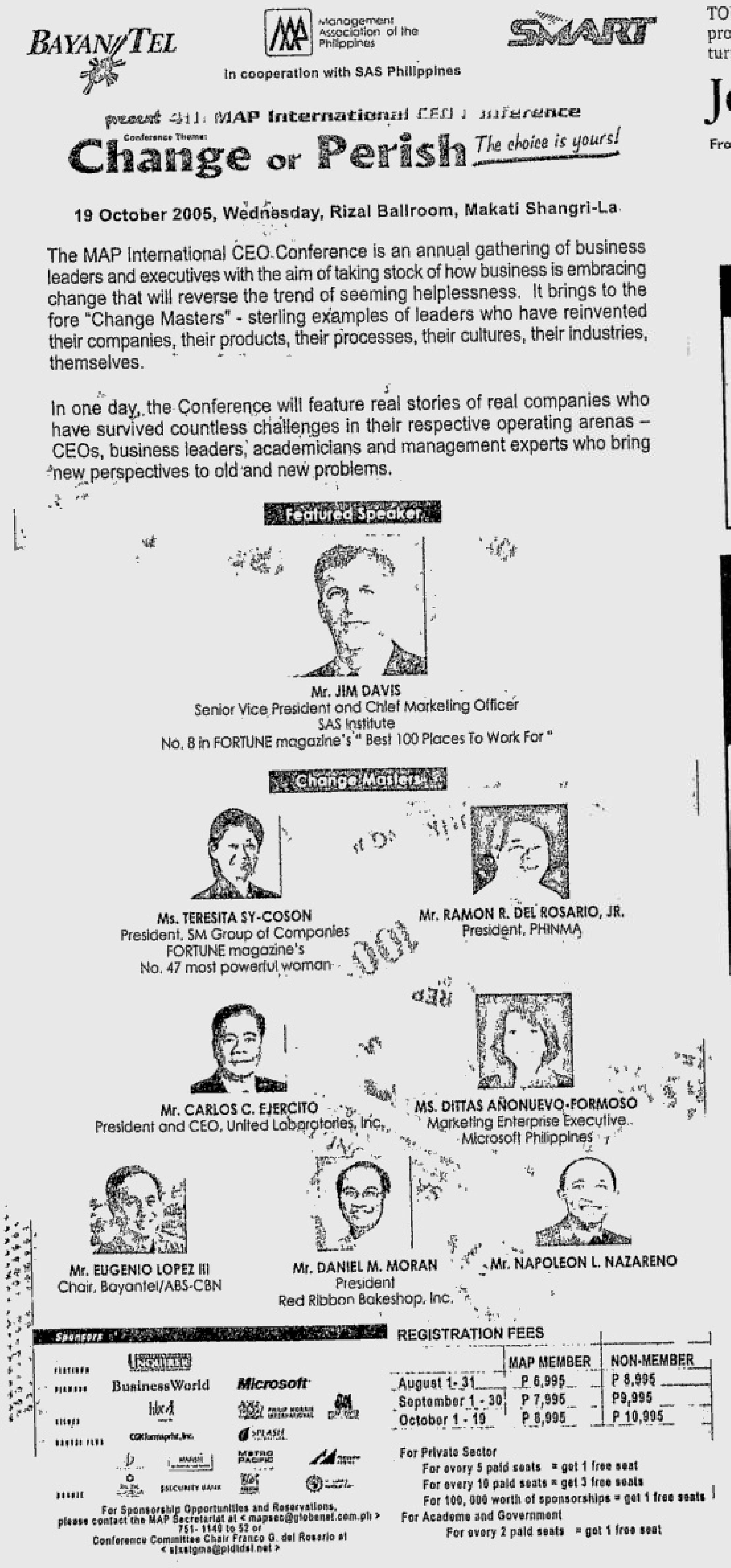
Well, some of the owners of Medico building are also the stockholders of a different medical building called Mati, or Medical Towers Inc.

Mati is the new building for doctors and dentists located near the brand new Medical City hospital at the Meralco compound on Ortigas avenue.

Some occupants of Medico transferred to Mati. Others, such as old retiring dentists, did not want to move to the new building. A room there would cost P4 million.

To force the remaining occupants of Medico to move to Mati, and cough off P4 million each, the "management" turned off the utilities.

And these are doctors? And all along, I thought that doctors are supposed to heal sick people to ease their sufferings. Well, I am not perfect.



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Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer
SAS Institute
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Ms. TERESITA SY-COSON
President, SM Group of Companies
FORTUNE magazine's
No. 47 most powerful woman

Mr. RAMON R. DEL ROSARIO, JR.
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Mr. CARLOS C. EJERCITO
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Jollibee buying Red Ribbon for ₱1.7B

From page B1

Ribbon P16.8 million per store.

"This is almost equivalent to the capex per store of Jollibee and much lower than the market capitalization per store of Jollibee. The Red Ribbon acquisition can easily be funded by Jollibee given its cash of P2 billion as of the first half this year," Pomento wrote.

Red Ribbon Bakeshop started in 1979 as a home kitchen baking cakes for friends and relatives. It has grown to 146 store outlets, 131 in the Philippines and 16 in California.

Based on its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Red Ribbon's shareholders included RRB Holdings Inc., Ramon Santos, 3R HM Holdings Inc., Romeo Mercado, Unimore Inc., company president Daniel Moran and his wife Teresita Moran, and RMT Investment Holdings.

The holding firms are believed to be family-owned companies of the shareholders, sources said.

Red Ribbon has been known for generations as the home of high quality but affordable moist cream cakes—chocolate, coffee crunch, ube, tiramisu as well as empanadas and pancit palabok—in a clean and homey atmosphere.

In the United States, Red Ribbon cakes are popular for their light, moist quality compared with the heavy, dry and sticky cakes available in mainstream bakeries and supermarkets.

Red Ribbon's mango and ube cakes won as "Best in LA" and continue to be the favorite among Fil-American and Latino customers.

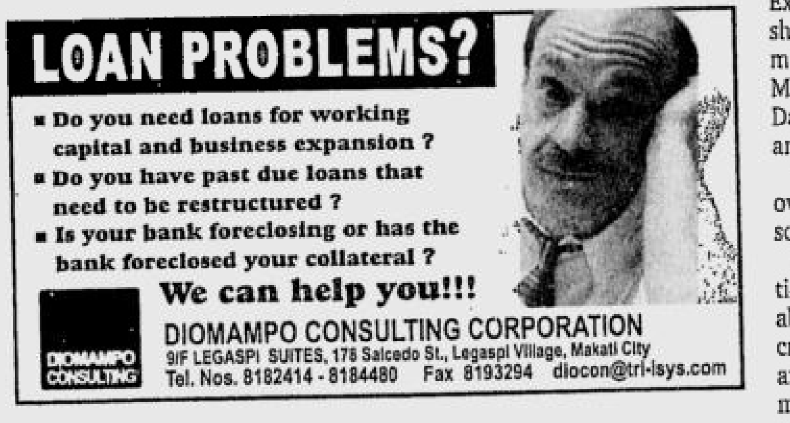
Total revenues of the company as of June 30 reached P2.5 billion. It was ranked No. 578 in the 2003 Top 1000 companies in the Philippines, with net sales hitting P1.28 billion, but with negligible net income. Equity in 2003 was P81 million with debt of P70 million.

Sources said Jollibee has yet to decide on whether or not to combine Red Ribbon with its pastry and bread brand Delifrance since it still had to complete the acquisition.

"Red Ribbon is a well-managed company and has very good products," a ranking official at Jollibee said.

Jollibee said Red Ribbon would provide synergies to the fast food giant. The Jollibee group earlier reported total revenues of P26.2 billion in 2004. It operates the biggest fast food network in the country with 1,079 stores as of June 30 this year. Of this, 508 are Jollibee stores, 310 Chowking, 228 Greenwich and 33 Delifrance.

It also operates 121 stores abroad, including 88 Yonghe King stores in China.



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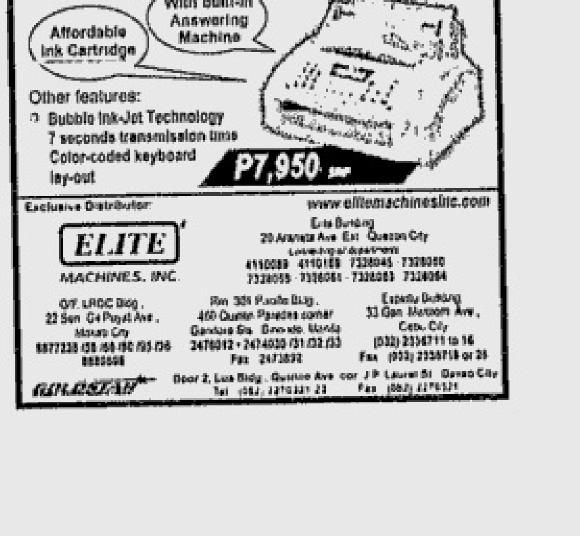

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Shares close . . .

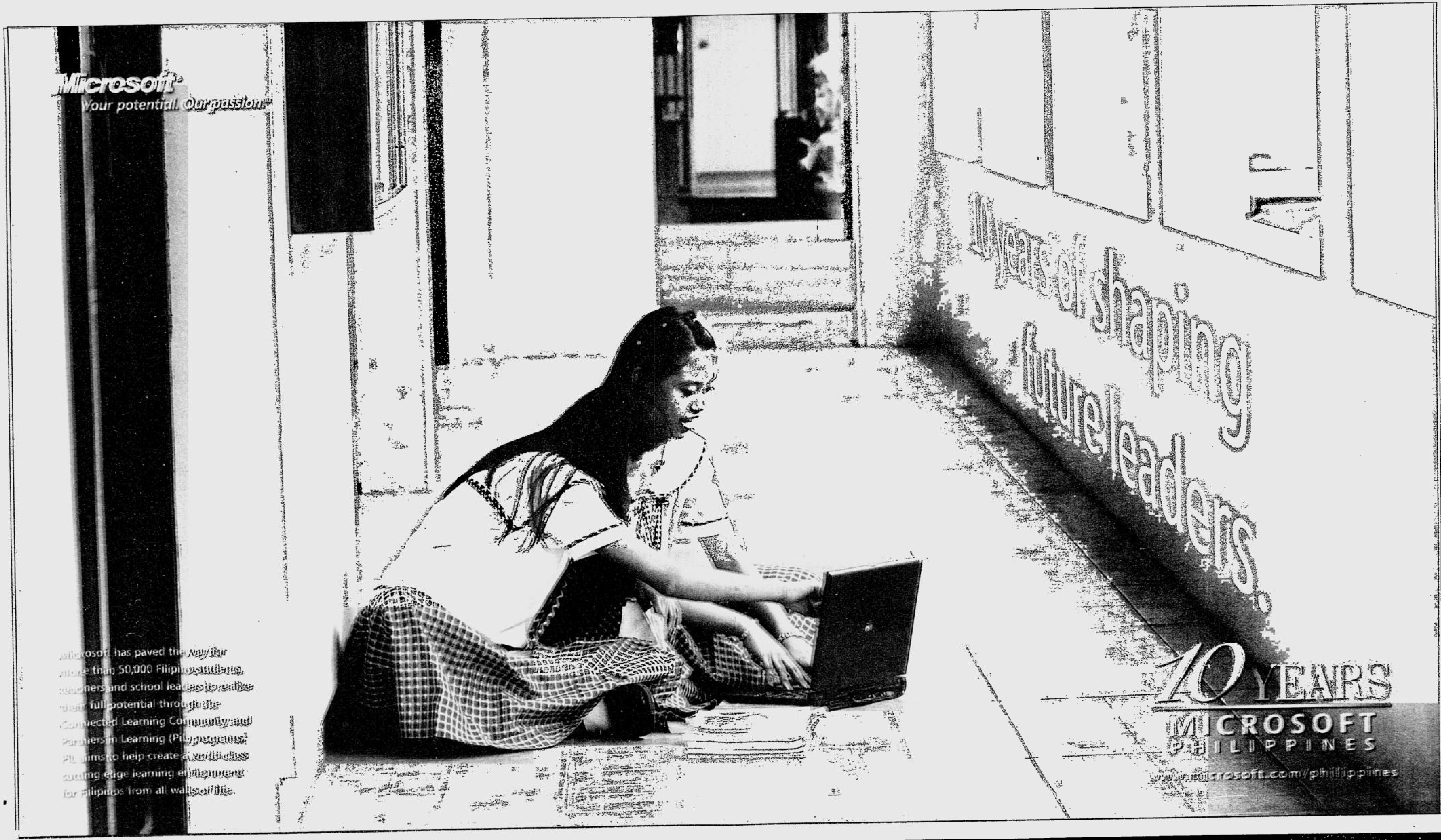
From page B1

its collection last month.

The composite index fell 19.61 points to 1,924.15 after trading between 1,915.26 and 1,943.76. It was the index's lowest closing level since July 18 when it settled at 1,909.25.

Turnover reached 493.4 million shares worth P1.08 billion ($19.3 million). Losers beat gainers 53 to 20, with 42 stocks unchanged.

The broader all-shares index fell 11.35 points to 1,171.22. *AFP*



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P3-B FIXED-RATE LOAN
AYALA Corp. signed a P3-billion fixed-rate loan agreement with First Metro Investment Corp. and BDO Capital and Investment Corp. The loan, falling due in 2010, will have a maturity of five years and a coupon rate of 10 percent a year. Proceeds from the loan will be used for general corporate purposes of Ayala Corp.

Present during the signing were (from left, seated) BDO trust banking FVP Ma. Lourdes T. de Vera, BDO Universal Bank SVP Edmundo Soriano, BDO trust banking SVP Ador A. Abrogena, Ayala Corp. managing director and senior assistant treasurer Ramon G. Opulencia, Metrobank trust banking EVP and trust officer Josefina E. Sulit, and First Metro Investment EVP Roberto Juanchito T. Dispo, (standing, from left) BDO Universal Bank VP Jose O. Garcia, BDO Capital and Investment EVP Eduardo V. Francisco and FVP Lynette V. Ortiz, BDO Universal Bank director Josefina N. Tan, Ayala Corp. CFO and treasurer Delfin L. Lazaro, BDO Private Bank COO Andrew D. Alcid, First Metro Investment EVP Jose Pacifico E. Marcelo and VP Stella Marie Piedad I. Torres, and Metrobank Trust Banking senior manager Jose Antonio C. Pineda.

NTC ends Smart-Digitel dispute

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered Smart Communications Inc. to lower the interconnection fee it was charging Digital Telecommunication Phils. Inc. to the same rate as that imposed on other telecommunication firms.

The order is expected to finally settle a year-old interconnection dispute between the two carriers.

The NTC told Smart to impose on Digitel the same P4-per-minute interconnection fee that it was charging all other carriers starting January 2004, instead of the P4.50-per-minute it wanted to impose on calls from Sun Cellular phones and Digitel landline phones.

"Smart's unjustified position constitutes unfair competition which ultimately hurts the consuming public. Smart's continued refusal to deal with Digitel in good faith renders imperative the commission's final and conclusive determination on the matter of revised access charges," said the NTC in its order.

Smart and Digitel have been locked in a dispute over access charges since June 2004. The Gokongwei phone company told the NTC that Smart refused to accept its interconnection payment of P66.088 million from April to May 2004. Smart billed Digitel about P85 million for the same period, representing the interconnection fees for calls made to Smart phones.

NTC, likewise, ordered Smart to compute Digitel's mobile and landline traffic account terminating at Smart's network based on the reduced access charge rates and to accept Digitel's payment amounting to P66.088 million as full or partial payment of Digitel's outstanding account with Smart, said the commission.

Smart told the NTC that access fees were set through bilateral negotiation, which was not done with Digitel. It also told the commission that its refusal to accept the payment also stemmed from Digitel's alleged failure to resolve problems of illegal connection within its network.

Proof of this, according to Smart, is the unusually high inbound traffic from Sun Cellular and Digitel compared with those from other carriers, considering the modest subscriber base of the Gokongwei carrier.

Digitel pointed out that it had disconnected 42,721 of the 57,774 accounts that Smart had suspected of engaging in International Simple Resale.

Still, the NTC said the issue on by-pass traffic was irrelevant to the interconnection fees between the two phone companies.

"It is clear that Smart's exclusion of Digitel from the implementation of revised access charges constitutes rate discrimination as far as inbound call traffic between the telecom firms are concerned," said the NTC.

PAL income rose 73% in April-June

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. (PAL) of taipan Lucio Tan said its net income grew 73 percent to $27.5 million in the period between April and June from $15.92 million last year, boosted by higher passenger traffic.

Net operating revenue for the quarter amounted to $268.8 million or 8 percent higher than the $248.9 million registered in the same period last year. Passenger revenue rose 9 percent to $230.2 million in the April to June period from $212.08 million in the same quarter last year.

PAL's fiscal year ends in March making the April to June period its first quarter.

Total operating expenses rose 11 percent to $226.66 million from $204.7 million due to higher fuel costs and maintenance expenses. Growth in maintenance expenses was due to higher aircraft, component and engine repair cost.

SMC beer sales in China up 7%

THE BEER operations of San Miguel Corp. in North China posted a 7 percent growth in sales revenues in the first half of 2005.

Further operational efficiencies have been achieved with the rationalization of sales offices focusing on the key demand centers of Northern China particularly those in Hebei province and in Tianjin City.

SMC's North China beer venture owns and manages San Miguel Baoding Brewery Co. Ltd. located in the western part of Baoding City, Hebei province, which is in the middle of three other major cities: Tianjin, Shijiazhuang and China's capital, Beijing. The North China SMC operations started in 1996 with San Miguel's purchase of the former Bada Baoding Brewery. Under SMC, the brewery earned its ISO 9002 and ISO 9001:2000 certifications in 1994 and 1998, respectively.

Gov't urged to clarify petrochem tariff issues

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JG SUMMIT Petrochemical Corp. is seeking clarification with the government on whether tariffs on petrochemical products would be kept at a protective range of 7-10 percent, as the firm pushes through with the bidding for the construction of its $468.7-million naphtha cracker.

JGSPC president Wilfredo A. Paras said bids for the contract were expected to be submitted today and that evaluation would take up to three months.

The company wants to have construction work started by next year.

"The issue of tariff reduction is very important (for the project)," Paras said.

Under the country's commitment with the Association of Southeast Nation, tariffs on all petrochemicals should have been reduced to 5 percent by 2003.

Also, the Cabinet-level Committee on Tariffs and Related Matters have recommended that duties on 11 petrochemical products to comply with the Asean commitment to remove tariff differences.

Differing tariffs have created price distortions such that imported finished products were cheaper than imported raw materials.

The JG Summit group is concerned that a reduction in tariffs would endanger the viability of its naptha cracker project and make it harder to secure funding.

The project is meant to cut dependence on imported raw materials for plastic products. Once operational, it would be able to produce yearly a total of 350,000 tons of ethylene and propylene, which when processed further would yield resins for plastics.

Fitch sees PNB-Allied Bank merger

By Doris C. Dumlao

LONDON-BASED credit rating agency Fitch said the impending hike in the Lucio Tan group's stake in Philippine National Bank would likely lead to its merger with Allied Banking Corp.

"With the Lucio Tan group gaining control of PNB, it is unlikely that there will be any change in the composition of the bank's highly professional and competent management team. The deal also paves the way for a merger between PNB and Allied Bank, which is also owned by the Lucio Tan group," said Ivan Tan, associate director in Fitch's financial institutions team in Asia.

The Lucio Tan group has exercised its right to match the best offer for the 68-percent stake in PNB which was recently auctioned off by the government.

Fitch Ratings said PNB's balance sheet was "notably stronger" at present, after a deposit run in late-2000 that led to a bailout of the bank by the government and the Lucio Tan group.

The balance sheet improvement also led to better profitability, although this too, like the balance sheet, remains weak, Fitch noted.

"Of greatest note, however, has been the operational development of the bank since the bailout, thanks to the very competent new management installed at the bank at that time. This is, in turn, building the basis for the bank's return to greater profitability and overall financial strength," the ratings firm said.

Fitch noted that a potential merger between PNB and Allied Bank would render the merged entity the third-largest bank in the Philippines, enlarging the branch network and franchise and somewhat improving economies of scale for greater efficiency.

"Fitch views such consolidation of the Philippines' somewhat fragmented and generally weak banking industry positively. That said, the Philippines' major banks continue to be controlled by prominent Philippine business interests," the report said.

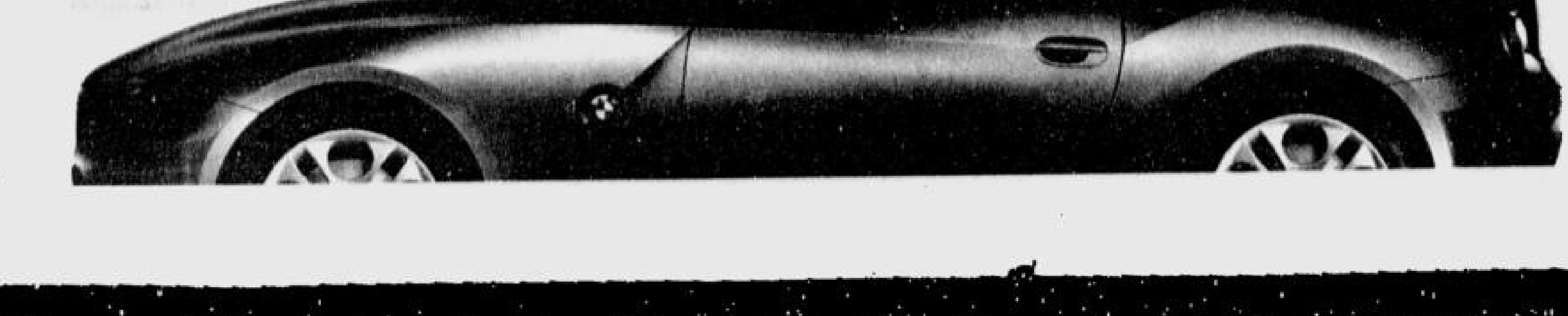
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	31.5	32	470,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	51	51	774,400
China Banking Corp.	800	800	800	800	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.62	1,040,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52	52	51	51	288,600
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	12,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	507,800
Philippine National Bank	38	38	37	37	11,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.5	43,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	121,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	18,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2740	2740	2740	2740	510
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1995	2000	1995	2000	1,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.25	13.25	13.25	89,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	1	0.98	1	2,430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	730	710	720	98,370
Ipeople Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	15,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	6,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.05	2.9	3	5,514,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1540	1550	1540	1540	171,280
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	3,500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	20,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.5	69,500
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	22.75	22.75	978,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	806,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	2,270,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	277,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	50,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	156,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	220,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	835,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	26,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32	407,700
Swift Food Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	67.5	68	67	68	131,500
San Miguel Corp. B	97	98	96.5	98	319,700
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	1,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	300	300	290	295	179,130
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	8,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.02	2.02	147,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	4,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	570,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.12	11,185,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	2,680,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.2	110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.95	2,128,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	14,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	427,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43.5	44	531,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	600,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	2,000,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	245,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	82,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	900,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	700,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	4,270,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,390,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	576,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	216	215	216	323,320
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	240,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	800,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	3,890,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	450,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	896,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	140,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	13.5	12.75	13	879,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	18,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	6,733,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	930,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,540,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	3,550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	5,700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	310,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4	4	3.95	3.95	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	11,214,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.93	40,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	108,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.4	6	6.3	15,463,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	9	8	8.7	123,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	8,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2	1.9	1.9	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	6,300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	11,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	12,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	26,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	101,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	4,910,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.94	5,930,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	27.5	28	822,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	5,430,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.35	3.35	219,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.44	10,430,000

CURRENCIES

August 24, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817327	1.000000	55.9040
Japan	Yen	0.007439	0.009102	0.5088
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472742	1.801900	100.7334
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105147	0.128647	7.1919
Switzerland	Franc	0.643464	0.787278	44.0120
Canada	Dollar	0.682813	0.835422	46.7034
Singapore	Dollar	0.490622	0.600276	33.5578
Australia	Dollar	0.617503	0.755515	42.2363
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.168034	2.652590	148.2904
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217954	0.266667	14.9078
Brunei	Dollar	0.489154	0.598480	33.4574
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019959	0.024420	1.3652
UAE	Dirham	0.222541	0.272279	15.2215
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.223500	68.3985
Argentina	Peso	0.281110	0.343938	19.2275
Brazil	Real	0.340624	0.416753	23.2982
Denmark	Kroner	0.134080	0.164047	9.1709
India	Rupee	0.018759	0.022952	1.2831
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216826	0.265287	14.8306
Mexico	New Peso	0.075546	0.092430	5.1672
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569090	0.696282	38.9249
Norway	Kroner	0.125207	0.153191	8.5640
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013732	0.016801	0.9392
South Africa	Rand	0.126014	0.154178	8.6192
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.000973	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.107017	0.130935	7.3198
Syria	Pound	0.015745	0.019264	1.0769
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025474	0.031167	1.7424
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000381	0.000466	0.0261



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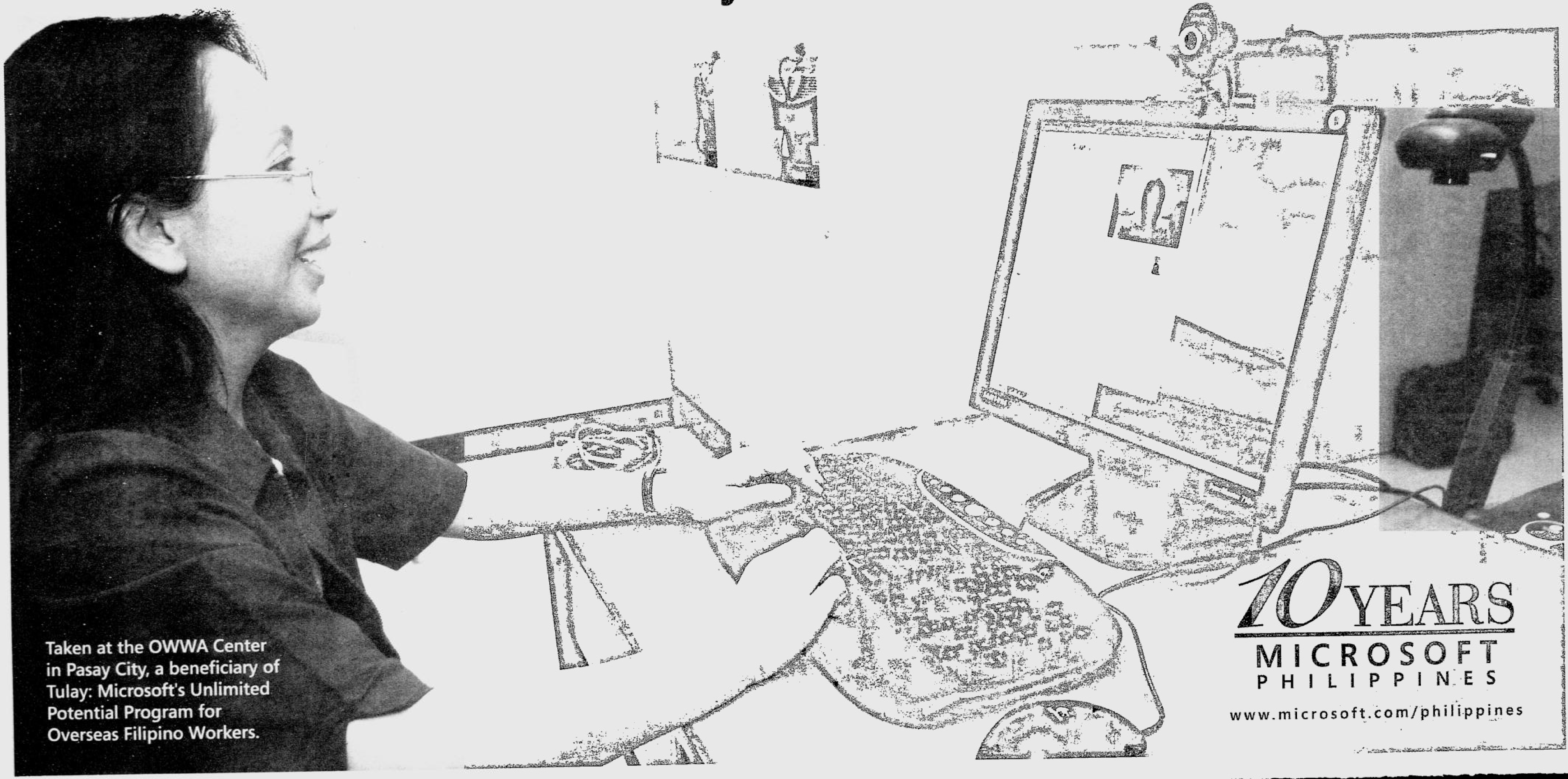

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Google to introduce message, voice systems

SAN FRANCISCO—Google, the Internet search innovator, will make its first direct challenge to the broader communications industry when it introduces an instant-messaging and voice communication service for personal computers.

The program, Google Talk, will allow its users to exchange text messages and converse through their computers with others at remote locations. Other instant-messaging services offer similar capabilities, but Google said the appeal of its system would come from its voice quality, based on audio technology it has developed.

As with other Google product introductions, the company has not linked the new service with a plan for making money, saying only that it was likely to look for revenue opportunities in the future.

But Wednesday's introduction is the clearest evidence yet that Google has vast ambitions to move beyond its Web search roots and create a company spanning the full range of digital information.

In choosing to compete directly with the three major providers of instant messaging—AOL, Microsoft and Yahoo—Google has chosen a standard known as Jabber.

The three major messaging services are largely islands that do not permit their users to send messages to and from competing services.

But there have been reports that the Jabber open-source organization is preparing to connect with AOL, which is the largest provider of messaging with its AOL Instant Messenger system, known as AIM.

A Google executive said the company was hoping to use the Jabber standard to connect the messaging industry.

At the start, Google Talk users will be able to exchange text messages with users of other Jabber-compatible software—including Apple's iChat service and Earthlink—but they will be able to converse only with other Google Talk users.

Google plans to link availability of its instant-messaging service to its e-mail service, Gmail, now in public testing.

Georges Harik, a product management director, said that Google saw its entry into the communications world in the context of a corporate mission of organizing and making all of the world's information accessible. *New York Times*

STRONG GLOBAL DEMAND

Oil prices above $66 on US fears

OIL prices inched up towards $66 on Tuesday as fears over persistent global supply disruptions countered recovering output from Ecuador and an expected slight increase in US crude stocks. AP

SINGAPORE—Oil prices surged above $66 a barrel in Asian trade Wednesday as the market awaited the weekly petroleum inventory report from the United States amid continued strong global energy demand.

Yesterday morning, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in October, was trading at $66.22 a barrel, up 51 cents from its close of $65.71 in the United States on Tuesday.

The US Department of Energy is expected to release the weekly inventory report late Wednesday in the United States, with the market expecting a rise in crude stocks.

But geopolitical events such as developments in Iraq continue to keep the market on edge because of possible disruptions to already tight supplies amid robust demand, dealers said.

Iraq has resumed oil exports from its southern fields after a 16-hour suspension due to a power outage, which may have been caused by sabotage.

Oil exports from the fields had stopped from midnight Sunday.

The southern fields are currently the most productive in Iraq. Northern oil pipelines run through the restive Sunni heartland north of Baghdad, making them a target for insurgent attacks.

Dave Ernsberger, Asia oil director at energy information giant Platts in Singapore, said strong energy demand is partly being fueled by several Asian governments continuing to subsidize oil prices.

"One of the key drivers of demand is that oil prices for Asian consumers tend to be artificially low," he said, referring to government oil subsidies in countries like China and Indonesia.

Unless political leaders take drastic steps to remove subsidies, demand is unlikely to decline.

Traders on the other hand are trying to push prices higher in the hope they would reach a point where demand would cool down, Ernsberger said.

"There's really been a major push upwards from traders in the market who appear bent upon finding the price level where they can destroy demand," he said.

"I think we're close to that level now ... In my personal opinion $70 is that level." Phil Flynn, a trader with US-based Alaron Trading Corp., said competition for energy sources was played out in the recent bidding war between China and India over oil firm Petrokazakhstan. China outbid India, offering $4.18 billion.

"This move by China underscores their desperation to secure oil as they import 75 percent of their oil. India is not far behind and they currently import 70 percent of what they need," Flynn said.

"Both have increasing import numbers and as their need to import increases, more pressure is exerted on worldwide supply. That's why the market is getting even more sensitive to any oil price disruption." *AFP*

Asian stocks fall on oil

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks fell on Wednesday, with investors troubled by a fall in US shares after data pointed to a softening property market and as oil jumped back over $66 a barrel to within one dollar of its record high.

The dollar rose against the euro and the yen without breaking out of the ranges of the past week, as traders waited for direction from US durable goods data and a speech from a US Federal Reserve policy maker.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average ended a see-saw morning session down a quarter of a percent at 12,441.31, while MSCI's broadest index of markets elsewhere in Asia, was down 1 percent.

"This is just a correction and I don't think the rally in the Nikkei is over yet," said Sharada Selvanathan, a currency strategist at BNP Paribas in Singapore.

The Nikkei, which posted its highest close in four years on Tuesday, opened down 0.4 percent, but lifted briefly into positive territory as investors bought technology shares such as NEC Electronics Corp, which rose 3.2 percent.

South Korea's KOSPI fell over 2 percent, weakened by Wall Street's losses and as high oil prices hurt energy-sensitive stocks such as Korea Electric Power Corp.

High oil prices not only raise input costs for businesses, they also threaten demand for their goods and services by taking up more of consumers' available spending money.

US stocks closed lower on Tuesday after a drop in US existing-home sales raised concerns about consumer and mortgage lending, with financial services companies suffering.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.48 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index lost 0.19 percent.

Housing has been a key engine of US economic growth, including through the wealth effect of rising property prices boosting consumer spending and borrowing, so a hint of softening was enough to push Treasury yields lower.

In Hong Kong, stocks fell 0.3 percent, with index heavyweight and global bank HSBC Holdings Plc 0.2 percent lower after the US losses.

Australian stocks extended their retreat from Monday's record close, with investors selling shares of Amcor Ltd., the world's top maker of plastic bottles, on disappointment with its profit growth and outlook. *Reuters*

DAN Rowe, left, and Katie Bombico, start their daily commute from work in downtown Pittsburgh on their bicycles. They are part of Car Free Pittsburgh which, for now, promotes walking, bicycling and public transportation. The group is part of the World Carfree Network, a loose-knit coalition of more than 40 groups dedicated to eradicating cars, which they say hurt the environment, the economy and society. AP

Hyundai Motor faces strikes, shares dip

SEOUL—Unionized workers at South Korea's top carmaker Hyundai Motor Co. will hold brief strikes this week, although analysts said inventory levels should provide a buffer for exports that make up 70 percent of the firm's sales.

Poor labor relations are a main hurdle threatening Hyundai's goal of becoming a global top five carmaker by 2010.

The firm traditionally faces tough annual wage negotiations with its union, the country's biggest and the most powerful arm of the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.

Union members will stop work for 2 hours on Thursday and for 6 hours on Friday, the union said on its Web site. More than 70 percent of union members had voted to strike on Tuesday.

So far this year, South Korean firms have had comparatively few interruptions from strikes.

Although 248 strikes have been called this year, compared with 462 for the whole of 2004, data from the commerce ministry show the total number of lost working days from strikes has been 282,920 so far this year, well off the pace of 1.2 million days in all of 2004.

The union at Hyundai is seeking a monthly basic salary hike of 109,181 won—or about 8.5 percent of the average basic salary—plus an 800 percent bonus payment and incentive payments worth 30 percent of the company's net profit, among other requests, according to a statement on the Web site.

Shares in Hyundai Motor, the seventh biggest stock on the Korea Exchange, closed down 3.3 percent at 69,600 won, compared with the wider market's 2 percent fall.

"We will continue negotiations with the union," said Jake Jang, a Hyundai Motor spokesperson. Estimates for losses from the planned industrial action were not immediately available.

The firm suffered five full days of strikes last year, costing 263 billion won ($256 million) in lost revenue and, according to analysts, triggering a near 14 percent rise in labor costs.

Analysts said there should be no imminent threat to Hyundai sales this time because the carmaker had enough inventory for exports, which account for about 70 percent of Hyundai's sales and are a key leg of South Korea's overseas shipments. *Reuters*

Asia's job market tightening

SINGAPORE—From telecommunications to banking, Asia's job market is at its tightest since the technology boom burst five years ago, partly as companies reorganize, a leading recruitment firm says.

"Asia is a very happy story at the moment," said Richard Parnell, the Asia-Pacific head of British recruitment consultancy Robert Walters Plc. "This is the tightest the job market has been in 5 years.

Salaries have risen to just above levels seen in 2000, after a gradual and cautious climb in the past few years, and firms are becoming more willing to offer full-time employment, he said.

Centralizing is a hotter concept now than outsourcing of low-end jobs to countries with cheap labor, such as India and China.

Parnell said the choice of where a financial company wants to centralize its back office normally narrows down to Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Robert Walters assisted two investment banks that centralize their back-offices in Singapore.

"Singapore has had a lot more success. It has obviously a natural cost advantage over Tokyo, and it has linguistic advantage over Hong Kong.

With 120 recruiters in Asia-Pacific operating in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia, Robert Walters helped fill about 2000 permanent jobs—mainly white collar and middle management—in 2004.

Those numbers have risen by 10 percent to 15 percent so far this year.

Walters' view is reflected in national jobs data.

Japan's jobless rate fell to a seven-year low of 4.2 percent in June and Australia's jobless rate is at its lowest since 1976.

Parnell said salaries in some specialist sectors have risen by 15 percent from a year earlier, although wages overall have on an average risen only by 5 to 7 percent.

The real skills shortage was in infrastructure jobs within banks, such as in areas of control and risk management.

There was also huge demand for people in accounting and compliance areas after the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 forced US companies to overhaul internal control systems, while companies from other countries adopted similar standards. *Reuters*

US SEC charges former Kmart top executives with fraud

WASHINGTON—The US Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday charged two former top Kmart executives with misleading investors about the company's financial condition in the months preceding its 2002 bankruptcy.

The SEC accused former chief executive Charles Conaway and former chief financial officer John McDonald of making materially false and misleading disclosures about the company's liquidity and related matters in its quarterly report for the third quarter ended Oct. 31, 2001.

The SEC has been investigating vendor accounting practices at Kmart prior to the retailer's filing for bankruptcy protection in January 2002. Kmart, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2003, has since acquired Sears, Roebuck and Co., and the combined company is called Sears Holding Corp.

"Although Mr. McDonald obviously is disappointed that the SEC elected to bring this action, he fully expects to be exonerated when the facts are tested in a court of law," said Jack Sylvia, an attorney for McDonald, in a statement.

An attorney for Conaway could not immediately be reached for comment.

"Investors are entitled to both accurate financial data and an accurate description of the story behind the numbers," Peter Bresnan, an associate director in SEC's enforcement division, said in a statement.

"Kmart's senior management failed to honestly inform investors that Kmart faced a liquidity crisis in the third quarter of 2001, how the company's own ill-advised action had caused the problem and what steps management took to respond to it," he said.

The SEC said Conaway and McDonald did not adequately disclose the reasons for a massive inventory buildup in the summer of 2001 in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis" section of Kmart's quarterly report.

A significant portion of the inventory came from an "officer's reckless and unilateral purchase of $850 million of excess inventory," the SEC said.

But the quarterly report attributed the buildup to "seasonal inventory fluctuations and actions taken to improve our overall in-stock position."

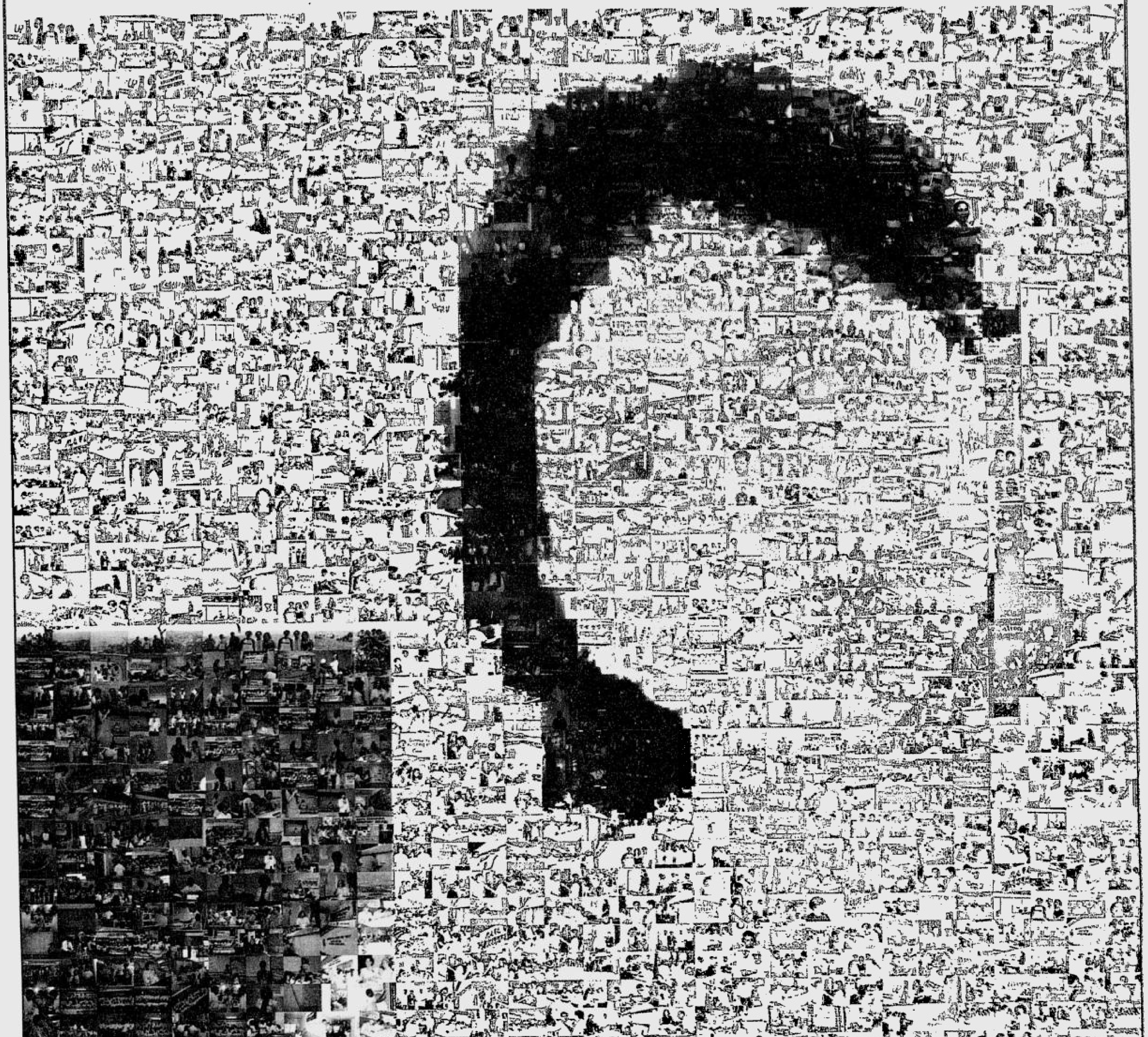
The SEC said Conaway and McDonald dealt with the liquidity problems by slowing down payments to vendors, withholding $570 million by the end of the third quarter of 2001, then lied about why the vendors were not being paid on time.

Many of the vendors stopped shipping products to Kmart during the fall of 2001.

The SEC is seeking permanent injunctions, disgorgement with prejudgment interest, civil penalties, and officer and director bars against Conaway and McDonald.

The commission's complaint was filed in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. *Reuters*

CONAWAY



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Dial 8-MCDO Delivery Service marks 3rd anniversary

MCDONALD'S Philippines recently marked the third anniversary of the Dial 8-MCDO Delivery Service with a colorful motorcade in Metro Manila.

The motorcade kicked off as 88 delivery riders converged at McDonald's Quezon Avenue Branch before motoring around the city's major streets.

McDonald's chief happiness officer, Ronald McDonald along with Dial 8-MCDO endorser Kuya Bodjie and mascot Telepong, joined the sea of riders in blazing McDonald's red and black jackets in celebration of the event.

At the send-off ceremony, McDonald's Philippines managing director Kenneth S. Yang rallied the riders and officers of McDonald's who pioneered the delivery system in the fast food industry to continue improving the service to enable more Filipinos enjoy Mc Donald's in a more convenient way with assured freshness, quality and service to customers as experienced in its 250 stores.

"McDonald's is the only restaurant with a unique delivery number that is easy to remember and unique to the brand: 8-MCDO which is equivalent to 8-6236 in the telephone's keypad," Yang says.

Launched in August 2002, Dial 8-MCDO is an enhanced and expanded edition of its earlier delivery service to offer more options to its patrons. Aside from easy recall, Dial 8-MCDO enables customers to order their favorite food including French fries and sundae, wherein McDonald's is the only restaurant that can deliver these sensitive food products.

Moreover, recently introduced is the Dial 8-MCDO 24-hour delivery service initially for Makati, Alabang, Ortigas, Libis, and Quezon Avenue. In the provinces, PLDT subscribers can dial 1-800-1000-8-MCDO, while Digitel subscribers can dial 1-800-300-8-MCDO.

Netizens can also order via the Internet by logging on to www.8mcdo.com to order their favorite McDonalds Meal. Whichever medium is used, delivery is guaranteed within 30 minutes upon placement of orders.

McDonald's is the world's number one fast-food chain providing high-quality products at good value.

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MC DONALD'S Philippines managing director Kenneth Yang, Dial 8-MCDO endorser Kuya Bodjie, mascot Telepong and Ronald McDonald.

ATENEO DE MANILA CONFERS TRADITIONAL UNIVERSITY AWARDS

The Ateneo de Manila University recently conferred the Traditional University Awards on four outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of endeavor during the annual Special Academic Convocation at the Rev. Henry Lee Irwin, S.J. Theater. This year's awardees were the following: Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa, the Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi, in recognition of her painstaking research on the traditional dances and related folk artistic expressions of the Sulu archipelago; the late lawyer William T. Chua, Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan (Public Service Award, posthumous), for his unimpeachable integrity and reputation as a great champion and eloquent advocate for the public interest and human rights; Merlie B. Mendoza, Ozanam Award, for her commitment in addressing the endemic poverty of 1.2 million Filipinos in the poorest sub-region comprising the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; Sister La Croix de Jesus Ilagan, SPC, Bukas Palad Award in Memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, S.J., in recognition of her lifelong extraordinary dedication in providing health care and/or administrative service in medical institutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC); and the late Judge Voltaire Y. Rosales, the Lux in Domino Award, for his exemplary courage and integrity in applying the rule of law, especially among those who are most in need of help. Photo shows the awardees at Ateneo's Traditional University Awards (from left): Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa, the Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi; lawyer Nena Rosales receiving the posthumous award for her husband Judge Voltaire Y. Rosales, Lux in Domino; Ateneo de Manila University president Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.; the Very Reverend Daniel Patrick L. Huang, S.J., Provincial Superior, Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus; Sister La Croix de Jesus Ilagan, SPC, Bukas Palad; Betty Ong-Chua for her husband the late lawyer William T. Chua, Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan and Merlie B. Mendoza, Ozanam Award.

MRII reviewees soar to the top

THE MANILA Review Institute Inc scores high in its commitment to academic excellence in coming anew with another set of topnotchers, this time, in the recent Chemical Engineering Licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission on April 26-to 28, and surpassing the national passing percentage.

Ten MRII reviewees capped most of the top ten places. They are Alan Odelon C. Lomanta Jr., 1st; Marc O. Ramos, 2nd; Jefferson D. Villacorte, 4th; Chloe Mary Louise J. Noble, 6th ; Jessielyn Marie E. Erfe and Timothy John C. Martin, tied for the 7th; Elizabeth S. Chua, 8th; Milyn L. Mamucud, Bernadette A. Portus, and Rafael S. Urgel, tied for the 10th. Chua is from the University of Santo Tomas, Urgel is from Adamson University and the rest are from the University of the Philippines-Diliman. MRII boasts of its 76.84 percent passing percentage compared to the 49.89 percent national passing percentage.

In the previous examination held November 2004, MRII reviewees also made it to the top ten places: Carlo Benigno F. Abalos, UP Diliman, 3rd; Clarence A. Catapang, UP Diliman, 4th; David J. Alcarde Jr., Adamson University, 5th; Amor L. Montefalcon, UP Diliman, 6th; Samuel O. Manlosa Jr., MSU-Marawi, 7th; and Jensen A. Bantaya, University of Santo Tomas, 8th.

Since its establishment in 1974, MRII has been producing topnotchers in Engineering Licensure Examinations, thus maintaining its total commitment to academic excellence. It offers regular and refresher programs for Mechanical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Chemistry, Teacher's Examination, Master Plumber and Civil Service Examination.

For information, visit MRII at 3/F Consuelo Building, 929 Nicanor Reyes St. (formerly Morayta), Manila or call 735-0112 to 14 or email at mrii@tri-isys.com.

SIA OPENS NEW MARKET

Top travel agents of Singapore Airlines (SIA) recently flew into town to experience a new premier tourism destination, which they plan to introduce in Bangladesh. The 2-day visit covered a tour of the city of Manila including Intramuros, our breathtaking bay area and Makati City. Photo shows Regina Kabigting, marketing communications manager of The Heritage Hotel (extreme left) welcoming the group to their official residence, Kok Ming Cheang, SIA GM for Bangladesh (fifth from right) with his sales manager Yameen Kabir (third from left) and Rita Dy of SIA Manila (extreme right). Annset Holidays handled the land arrangements of the group. SIA flies daily to Dhaka via Singapore with B777 aircraft. For more information, visit www.singaporeair.com/ph or contact (632)756-8888.

DTI-BPS AWARDS EUROLUX

The Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Product Standards recognized Eurolux International Lightings Inc for its campaign efforts at creating public awareness on the importance of energy label, in support of the DTI-BPS program on energy efficiency. Eurolux International Lightings Inc was among the first companies in the lightings industry here in the Philippines to finish and pass the rigorous testings on specified specifications of the Department of Energy (DOE) and to comply with the energy label requirement of the DTI-BPS. Eurolux is considered one of the top companies in the market today that offers a wide variety of excellent quality lighting products. The company is aggressive in its efforts to upgrade all its products to comply with the specified standards as mandated by the government. Shown in photo are: DTI-BPS Director Jesus L. Motoomull; DTI-Division of Standards and Conformance, Division Chief Frank Barranta; Eurolux president Dexter Ong; Eurolux general manager Allan Clores and Eurolux operations manager Noel Carbonell.

CHILI'S STAR BAR CHALLENGE

Joana Marie Francisco, a lady bartender who was competing in Chili's Star Bar Challenge for the first time, recently bagged the first prize in the bartending competition. The first runner-up spot went to Ronie Menes while Vic Toledo Jr. was second runner-up. Chili's Greenhills branch successfully defended their title and was the champion branch for the bartending challenge. Held annually, The Star Bar Challenge is a training competition among the best Chili's Star Bartenders. Prior to the event, Chili's spearheaded the selling of donation stubs for the event. The money raised that evening went to Gawad Kalinga. For more details about Chili's upcoming events and promos please visit or call: Missouri cor. Nevada Sts. in Northeast Greenhills - tel. no. 727-2959; Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati - tel. no. 812-0225/867-2727; and Tomas Morato cor. Sct. Fernandez Sts. in Quezon City - tel. no. 372-5017. Photo shows top Philippine model Rissa Samson with Chili's owners (from left) Robert Epes, Luigi Vera Jr. and Ritchie Yang. Rissa Samson served as the chair of the board of judges for the evening.

ProductFILES

Fresh new music, fresh cool breath

THEY say that the two of the major tools in getting a booming social life, i.e., great personality and good music-go hand in hand. However, if great personality and good music are the best tools in keeping a lively social life, fresh breath is the secret to having confidence in every social activity. To get you that ultimate social experience, Listerine recently tied up with music havens Tower Records and Music One. For every purchase of CDs from the new release section in every branch of these music joints, you get a free vial of Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks. Listerine PocketPaks are portable oral care strips that kill 99.9 percent of bad breath-causing mouth germs. Now you can enjoy your favorite tunes with your friends, and get that instant fresh breath, anytime, anywhere.

TOWER RECORDS
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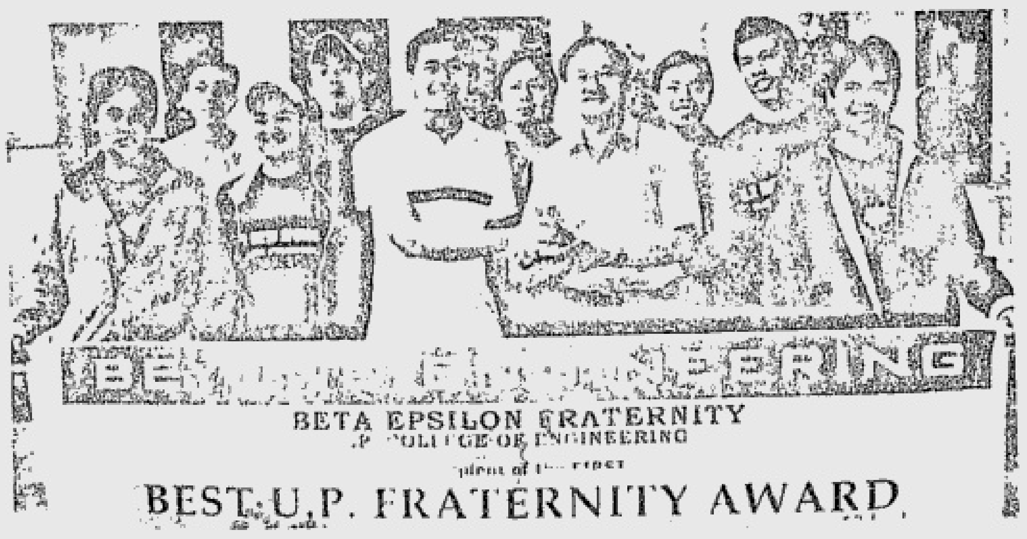
Dencio's fruity cocktails

ADD fun and zest to your gimmick nights with Dencio's two new ice-blended fruity concoctions: the Tropical Sting and Fruit Escape. Tropical Sting is a light, fruity concoction made of peaches, iced tea, green apple juice, banana liqueur and dark rum, blended in crushed ice. Fruit Escape is a cool and smooth blend of pineapple, lemonade, grape juice, banana liqueur and dark rum, mixed with crushed ice. Mixed with banana liqueur and dark rum, these two cocktails, which are also available in pitcher servings, are perfect pair to any of Dencio's grilled favorites, or good for a whole night of chatting with the barkada. These are now available together with Dencio's bar selections at all Dencio's restaurants.



BEST FRATERNITY AWARD

UP Beta Epsilon Fraternity is No. 1! In a ceremony held at the UP Board of Regents room in the Quezon Hall of UP Diliman with various fraternities in attendance, UP president Emerlinda Roman awarded the Best Fraternity Trophy to the UP Beta Epsilon Fraternity. The award was spearheaded by UP Diliman office of the vice-chancellor for student affairs under Dra. Tessa Jazmines. It was given to the Beta Epsilon Fraternity in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the University of the Philippines. The criteria for the awards include projects done for the university, the college, outreach/community projects, and quality of officers. The various fraternities were asked to submit their respective presentations as part of the selection processes. UP Beta Epsilon Fraternity is celebrating its' 76th anniversary this year with the following activities: Aug. 22 to 26 - Dom Ilio Painting and Fraternity Exhibit at the College of Engineering Lobby in Diliman; Aug. 23 - Cocktails at Manila Polo Club; Aug. 26 - Grand Pakain at the College of Engineering; and Aug. - 27 Sweetheart's Ball and Alumni Fellowship night at Celebrity Sports Plaza. For inquiries, call Bernie Abis at 0917-8912727, or email him at bernie.abis@gmail.com, visit the website: http://www.betaepsilon.net/.

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CAMEO FISHING CORP DONATES HEALTH CENTER

Cameo Fishing Corp donates a health center for Brgy. Maslabeng, Buluan, Maguindanao, a community upliftment project by Buluan Mayor Hon. Esmael G. Mangudadatu Al Hadj. Gracing the occasion are (from right): Khadaffee 'Toy' Mangudadatu Al Hadj, Assemblyman candidate for 2nd District, Maguindanao, ARMM; Zehan Manguda datu; Bai Elizabeth Tayuan; Datun Tayuan; Bai Eden Dilangalen; Bai Jennah Lumawan; Ginalyn Mangudadatu; Hon. Esmael G. Mangudadatu Al Hadj; Provincial Board Member Hon. Freddie Mangudadatu Al Hadj; representing Cameo are Albert Pasillao, EVP and COO and Nerick Gamo, Managing director.

CalEnergy sows a greener future in Casecnan

IT IS said that trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory.

One rainy morning in July, employees of CalEnergy International and other community volunteers did just that during the commencement of its tree-planting program aimed to rehabilitate the denuded portions of the Casecnan watershed.

Aptly called "Build Our Forest," the tree-planting activity last July 28 is a component of CalEnergy's Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program, which will cover more than 3,500 hectares of forestland over a period of six years.

CalEnergy International is an affiliate of the MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company in the United States and the company which operates the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Hydroelectric Power Project in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya.

Around 5,000 saplings were planted that day in more than three hectares of forestland. By the end of the year, CalEnergy is targeting to plant 200,000 seedlings in 100 hectares of denuded areas both in Pantabangan and Nueva Ecija.

Families residing in the Casecnan watershed area participated in the event, as part of the project's family approach scheme wherein participants are trained, educated and compensated for their stewardship of the seedlings for the next three years.

Officers and representatives of the National Irrigation Administration, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the local governments witnessed the occasion and expressed their support to CalEnergy's endeavors.

A ceremonial aerial seeding was also scheduled that day but was postponed due to bad weather conditions. The aerial seeding will nevertheless be carried out in the following months until it has dispersed the seeds over 500 hectares of forestland. This activity will be implemented for six years with a target area of 500 hectares per year.

Tree planting and aerial seeding activities will be implemented for the next five years until the pilot reforestation area is covered. To ensure full coverage of the pilot reforestation area, an annual replanting activity will be undertaken to replace seedling mortalities over the next five years.

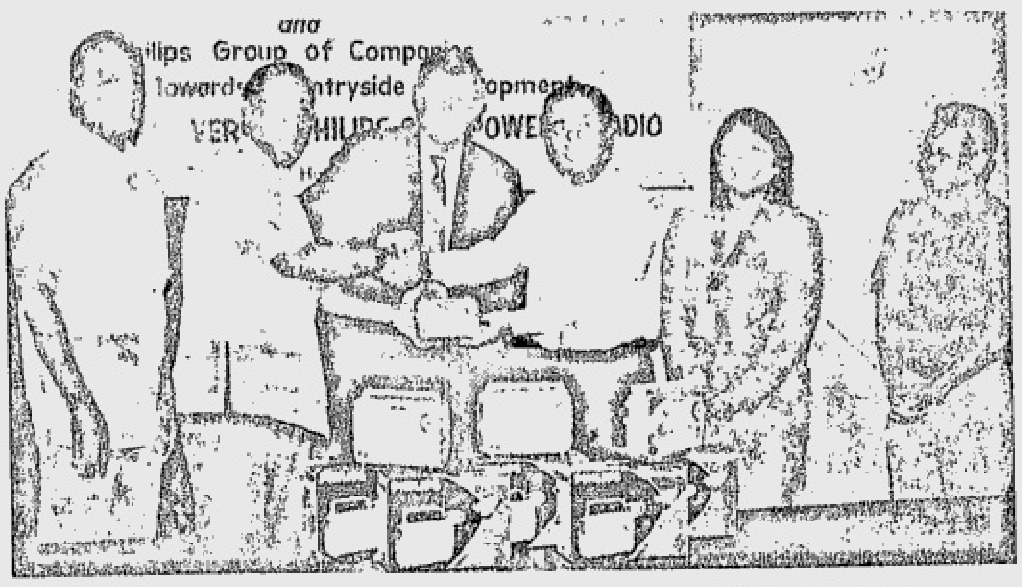
Aside from restoring the Casecnan watershed, the six-year reforestation program also seeks to increase the awareness of the community on the importance of the watershed and the need to preserve and protect it from degradation.

The program was launched in February and kicked off with the Give-a-Seed campaign which saw children from 27 schools in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya collecting close to 4,000 kilos of Ipil-ipil and Acacia seeds to be donated for the reforestation program. The Give-a-Seed campaign raised the environmental awareness of the children, who were also rewarded school supplies and their schools with reference materials and computers for their efforts.

The Casecnan watershed was slowly being decimated in the 1980s due to illegal logging, kaingin farming, mining and conversion of forestland to agricultural land. CalEnergy, which completed the state-of-the-art Casecnan irrigation and hydroelectric power facility in 2001, saw the need to rehabilitate the area to ensure the sustainability of the watershed to hold water for the river baseflow during dry season and to prevent flash floods during rainy season.

The facility, which is nestled between Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya, harnesses water generated from the watershed to irrigate the farmlands of Central Luzon and to produce 150 MW of electricity to supplement the energy requirement of Luzon. To help preserve the watershed, CalEnergy constructed its 26-kilometer tunnel and powerhouse underground, leaving the forest unharmed.

As a company, CalEnergy embraces the Environmental RESPECT philosophy. The principles of RESPECT - which stands for Responsibility, Efficiency, Stewardship, Performance, Evaluation, Communication and Training-is integrated in its daily activities that ensure the delivery of comfort and convenience to our customers every day.



PILIPINAS SHELL, PHILIPS TURNOVER SELF-POWERED RADIOS

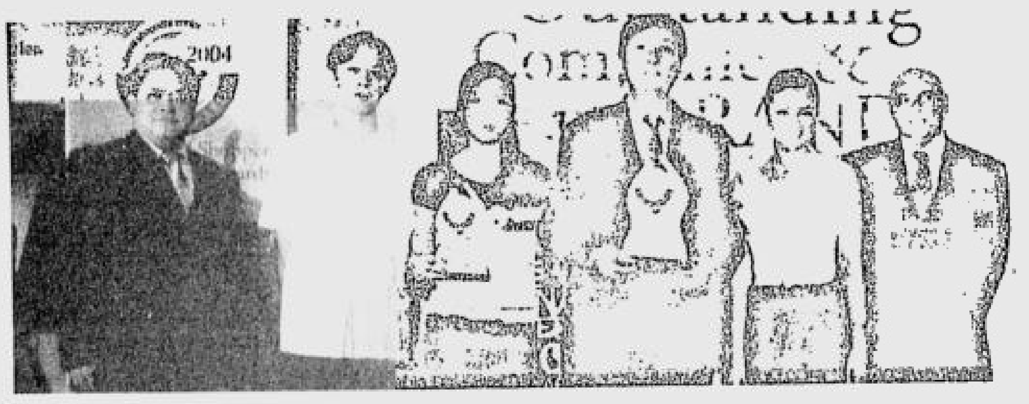
The Philips Group of Companies and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp teamed-up in efforts to contribute to the Philippines' countryside development through the launching of the Philips self-powered radio held July 22 at the Shell House Boardroom, Makati City. This innovative product complete with MW/SW/FM radio frequencies will benefit provincial residences because it is 'cost efficient' as there is no need to use batteries or electricity to make the unit work. It is easy to use - one minute of winding or turning the power generator's arm will charge the radio to run for 30 minutes and fully charging it for an hour will yield 15 hours of continuous listening. Photo shows (second from left) Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua and Philips president and CEO Menardo Mateo during the turnover ceremony witnessed by (from left) PSFI executive director Edgar Veron Cruz, Netherlands Embassy's First Commercial Attache Ric Hettinga, PSFI sustainable development manager Daday De Leon, and Philips consumer Electronics GM Angelo Valenton.

MANILABANK OPENS TOMAS MORATO BRANCH

Manilabank recently inaugurated its newest branch office located at Tomas Morato corner Scout Borromeo in Quezon City. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the branch to the public are Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Congresswoman Nanette Castelo-Daza and ABS CBN newscaster Karen Davila witnessed by DENR Secretary Mike Defensor and Tomas Morato branch manager Jules Dela Fuente.

ATENEO CORD, CCE HR PROGRAMS

The Ateneo de Manila's Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partners with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business' Center for Continuing Education (CCE) for short courses on human resources management. Shown are CORD director Dr. Gina Hechanova with CCE executive director Glenn San Luis, flanked by (from left) senior program development officer Don Rapadas, sales group head Marleth S. Calanog, and marketing services group head Deus Ducepec. Programs lined up are as follows: Basic Human Resources Management for Line Managers on Sept. 21 to 23; Coaching and Counseling on Oct. 24 to 26; and Managing Employee Performance on Nov. 23 to 25. For more information on the programs and details for registration, call 830-2041 and 830-2050 or visit www.cce.ateneo.edu.



SO SOFT TISSUE NAMED NO. 1 TISSUE BRAND

The recently held 2004 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards held at Dusit Hotel Nikko named So Soft Tissue as the No. 1 Tissue Brand for 2004 in recognition of the brand's excellent service to the shopping public. Photo shows (from left) lawyer Manuel Jose Oyson III (awards committee chair); Wilson Ang (sales manager, Gentro Phils Inc); Lily Ko (VP, Gentro Phils Inc); Harry Ko (president, Gentro Phils Inc); Carla Gay Balingit (Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2003) and Jose Jesus Roces (president, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation). So Soft Bathroom Tissue is a high quality yet affordable brand exclusively distributed by Gentro Phils Inc, is available at SM Watsons, Robinsons, Big R, Landmark, Puregold, Isetann, Cash & Carry and other leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

CHAMI COOKFEST A HIT

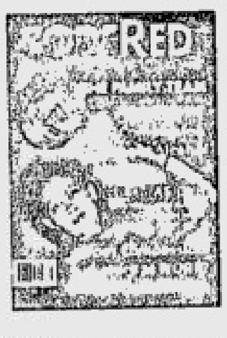
Maggi Magic Sarap All-in-One Seasoning Granules, Maggi's latest innovation, proved successful in giving a magical taste to Lucena's popular Chami pansit. On it's 2nd year as highlight of the Pasayahan Festival, an avenue-long Chami Cooking Contest was held at Quezon Avenue, Lucena City with record-breaking 500 participants. Creative dish versions were presented by the finalists, using only Maggi Magic Sarap as seasoning. More than 3,500 spectators witnessed the event. Chef judges selected the entry 'Hokome Chami' featuring seafood as this year's winner. Maggi products were also sold and TV sets as well as Maggi gift packs were awarded to lucky buyers via a raffle.

ProductFILES

Enjoy it the French or American way

THE FAMOUS Burger King 7-inch chicken sandwiches are now made even better. The BK Chicken Sandwich Royale is a choice of two distinct but equally delightful offerings. On one hand, you have the BK American Chicken Sandwich that's made of a delicious chicken patty topped with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise in special sesame seed bun. Then there's the BK French Chicken Sandwich. Same delicious chicken patty and soft, fluffy sesame seed bun but now complemented with slices of ham, Swiss cheese and mayonnaise. What's more you get for free, absolutely no strings attached, your side and drink. Golden fried french fries and your choice of any softdrink are served to you automatically when you order any of the humongous BK Chicken Sandwich Royale sandwiches. Isn't that a sweet deal for only P85? Head now to the nearest Burger King restaurant and take advantage of this offer before Sept. 15.

Code Red's latest issue



CODE RED, a family magazine advocating the values of servant-leadership has come out with its fifth issue, July - September 2005. Talking in a language everyone understands, the magazine devotes distinct sections for parents and adults as well as the youth. Employing the power of real-life stories, Code Red challenges the Filipino family to come out of its timid box and become the primary agent of social change. Code Red's is available at National Bookstores nationwide and PowerBooks-MegaMall, at P95 per copy. For inquiries and subscriptions, call 892-8174 or 817-3738.

Bits & Clips

World's largest strawberry shortcake

JIMENEZBASIC Advertising's Underline Division and San Miguel Corp won for the municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet the official Guinness record of the "World's Largest Strawberry Cake", created at the La Trinidad Strawberry Festival on March 20. The shortcake weighed in at an astounding 21,213.40 pounds, using over 3,100 kilos of La Trinidad strawberries and assorted Magnolia and Purefoods products, including 1,500 bars of Magnolia butter, 1,625 kilos of sugar, 9,000 pieces of eggs, 860 cans of evaporated milk, 1,155 kilos of flour, 20 kilos of baking powder, 10 kilos of salt and 250 liters of Magnolia whipped cream. This breaks the old record of 6,000 lbs. set in 1999 Plant City, Florida. The giant cake, which had a total volume of 547.32 cubic ft. was over 12 feet long and stood at 8.42 ft. It was served to more than 55,000 guests at the said festival.

The Kids Next Door are now in Jollibee

IT'S DEFINITELY all about Kid Power this month with Jollibee Kids Meal as Jollibee brings the adventurous gang from Cartoon Network's exciting new series Codename: Kids Next Door. The extraordinary 10-year-olds have a knack for finding adventures and escaping mishaps in their quest to empower kids everywhere. They're also a very ingenious and innovative bunch who makes use of the most ordinary things like plywood, styrofoam cups and even rusty cheese graters and turns them into anything but ordinary creations like a spy submarine or a super secret moon base. Known as Kids Next Door or KND, they plan out their missions in their top secret Treehouse where only the best KND operatives are allowed. Let your kids be the newest KND recruit with every purchase of a Jollibee Kids Meal until Aug. 31. Collect all five high-tech gadget-like toys that come with every purchase of the Jollibee Kids Meal and let your kids build their very own KND Treehouse Headquarters!

Fujitsu Phils new appointments

FUJITSU Philippines (FPI), a leading ICT systems integrator in the country, announced the appointment of Peter G. Tan as president and CEO of FPI effective Aug. 1. Peter G. Tan is a graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology with a BS Electrical Engineering degree, and he was sent to the GKI Leadership Program of Fujitsu Limited, Japan in 2002. Tan joined FPI in 1981 and became president of Wesolv Open Computing Inc, a subsidiary of FPI, in August, 2000. FPI also promotes Raul A, Santiago III to Executive Vice President and chief marketing officer (CMO). Santiago joined FPI as marketing director in October, 2000. He is a graduate of De La Salle University with a degree in Management; and he studied at Asian Institute of Management in 2003 under the Management Development Program.

Mojofly in concert

MOJOFLY, one of today's hottest pop rock bands, sets a career milestone as they embark on their first ever major concert "Mojofly Now: The Concert", coinciding with the much awaited release of their newest full length album. The 2-night show at the Music Museum Greenhills this Sept. 2 and 3 at 8:30 p.m. features Mojofly in a performance like you've never seen them before. The concert features a live string ensemble and special guests like Chito Miranda of Parokya ni Edgar, Ebe Dancel of Sugarfree, Hannah Romawac of Sessionroad and Rachel Alejandro. Their much-awaited video of their new single "Tumatakbo", a technical coup in the industry, also debuts that night. Tickets are available at Music Museum or call 633-8959 or 0918-9049202, or log on to www.mojofly.com.ph for more details. Prices are at P650, P550, P450. All tickets come with free Mojofly Now CD.

HOLCIM PHILS-DAVAO PLANT HOSTS CEMENT TECHNOLOGY COURSE

Holcim Philippines-Davao Plant hosted the Holcim Cement Course Asia Pacific 2005 in Davao City from June 6 to July 1. The month-long Cement Technology Course is being held in The Marco Polo Hotel right here in Davao City. The objective of the training program is to impart comprehensive theoretical knowledge and skills covering the entire spectrum of cement manufacturing from raw materials requirements, preparations, practical raw mix design, the different processes of cement production to the various units of operations and quality assurance principles. Another important learning of the training program is on energy conservation and environmental management. Thirty-six participants attended the course coming from Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Resource persons come from managers of various cement Plants of Holcim Philippines and consultants from Holcim Group Support Limited (HGRS) of Zurich, Switzerland. Shown are the The participants of the training course.

CAL wins 3 major awards at OAG Airline of the Year Awards 2005

CONTINENTAL Airlines has won three major awards including "Airline of the Year" in the OAG Airline of the Year Awards 2005.

Continental Airlines was named "Airline of the Year" and "Best Airline Based in North America" - both for the second year in a row. It was also named for having the "Best Executive/Business Class" for the third year in the row. The OAG Airline of the Year Awards has been called "The Oscars" of the airline industry.

"These awards once again demonstrate that Continental's employees are doing a spectacular job of delivering the service our customers want," said chair and chief executive officer Larry Kellner. "Consistency is one of the hallmarks of our product, and winning these awards repeatedly shows that everyone at Continental is doing a great job meeting our customers' needs and expectations - flight after flight after flight."

The awards are based on votes by frequent flyers around the world who subscribe to OAG print and electronic travel information products. Jim Summerford, vice president-Europe, Middle East and India, accepted all three awards on behalf of the airline at a ceremony today at the Park Lane Hotel in London.

Continental Airlines is the world's sixth-largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 3,000 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 150 domestic and 130 international destinations, more than any other carrier in the world. Nearly 400 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines, which include Aeromexico, Air France/KLM, Alitalia, CSA Czech Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Korean Air and Northwest Airlines. With 41,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 56 million passengers per year. Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture.

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QUEZON CITY

H&L our Ladys Crt Teora 300 sqm 10M 3BR 3BT Ful Fur 9310172 (0916)4400987

ST IGNATIUS VIL nr Eastwood, corner lot 13M 6BR 400m² Direct Buyers 912-0312 • 995-0925

OTHER AREAS

BRAND NEW H&L 1M-25M Daily 10am-7pm 842-1914 842-9570 • 0915-8260255

CAVITE

Gen. Trias P250T up Pag-Ibig P2031/mo. 09283571551

MOLINO 500k 09187141462

Near Tgyty 605K 5208410

Nr SM Dasma 681K 5208410

LAGUNA

ONLY 4 LOTS LEFT!!! (OUT OF 10 HECTARES) (02)5208556 / (049)5451766

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

10% DP TO MOVE IN Exec Res Condo Nr. Makati 2-4BR 0917-921-6905; 873-6428

1.3 RESORT-TYPE nr Mktl 2-4BR 12T/mo or No DP or 0% 1st Class • Bess 0917-5234223

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

Hamptons Place Global City Direct Cost 0917-5213838

MAKATI CONDO 123BR RENT/SALE/BNEW/RFO CALL: 575-6976 • 894-1051

MAKATI/MANILA CONDO SALE/RENT 0920-2403601

•ORIENTAL GARDENS• READY TO MOVE -IN Std , 123BR 1.9M & up or 10T/mo. 5242760/09178505739 ANGEL www.orientalgardenstower.com

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m² 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

MANILA

BAY GARDEN (MACTAN TWR) Nr Asia Mall of Asia, bayview Fil-Am Balikbayan, Welcome (02)446-8037 / 0921-7603930

BAY GARDENS ROXAS BLVD 1,2,3 BR'S 5M UP 09209602940 www.manilabaycondo.com

NEAR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.965M 8903461 loc 32,33,34

ROBINSONS PLACE RUSH FOR SALE 1BR, MDS.PARKING 66.15 SQM 5.6 NEG RISING SUN FACING TAFT 8690371 / 09283848095

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PARANAQUE

1.8 2STY 2BIG BDRMS 1CG STRONG H20 NR SM-SUCAT MORNING SUN 09209602940

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

SAN JUAN

L. MENCIAS NR. P. GUEVARRA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.645M up Tel 8903461

OTHER AREAS

VALLEY GOLF PENTHSE 520SQM, OVERLOOKING GOLF COURSE 3BR 3TB GARDEN PATIO, JUST RE-MODELED, OVER P25M INVESTED. QUICK SALE P17M. BROKERS WELCOME. CONTACT AMY 09178234983

LOT

PASIG

Ind'l VL Lot Pasig 1000m² 6453731

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P6,500/m² 0918-9235216★

OTHER AREAS

★TAGAYTAY OVERLOOKING ★10%DP 5yrs 0%Int. w/Free ★Membership Worth P425T ★0917-6428542 • Pls. Call

Malarayat 863sq.m 634-1212

OFFICE SPACE

Manda. 90-200sqm(RENT/SALE) 73-300sqm (Comm'l) 09192189817

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

30K MAKATI 1BR SF BNEW CONDO PRKNG,POOL,GYM 24TH FLR 09209602940

PASAY

ANTEL CVIEW F/F 1BR 09175022722

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

W'HAUS FOR LEASE/SALE IMUS CAVITE NR MACRO FA1920m² LA 30,000m² 09178472966,09209610487

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P200! 8275345

Exec rmTB PHILAMQC 9265582

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P150! Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500
LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

BUILDING FOR LEASE

Warehouse 1200m² 634-1212

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

AYALA/LEGASPI/SALCEDO 20; 57; 90: 180; 450; 1200m² P250-450/m² 8696475 ; 4796

TEKTITE TOWER
Office Spaces
For Rent
Monthly Rent: P15T up
For Inquries:
Look for Ms. Baby 0917-5397225
Ms. Phoebe Tel. 634-6841/43

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

PACIFIC PLAZA SPECIALIST Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

91 Sentra 110K 641-4517

TOYOTA

00' SPORTS REVO P450T (neg) A/T 63km 09178219508 MANNY

VAN/PICK-UP

99 HIACE GL GAS 480 NEG GRANDIA LUK 09209619057

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CAR (M/T A/T) VANS (8-15P) T 9366198 4270344

CARS INT'L. RENTAL SRVS. U-Drive Cars & Vans 896-0856/8908915

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL• ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER TEL. 8334476 CEL 09198985176

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT-A-VAN 6424405

REVO w/driver 9272821

TOYCO CARS SUV VANS Rental Dly Wkly Monthly Rental Mnl. 8023021-22 CEBU (032) 3451802 DAVAO (082)2358375

Van 4 hire bnew 3+1 9298376

VANS•CARS•726-8388

ABC RENT A CAR HI-ACE•STAREX L300•URVAN•REVO ETC. AND ALL CAR BRANDS/ TYPES MLA.: 536-8822 • 303-9780 Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

3 Accounting Assistants

Male or Female
Preferably acccounting graduate from 23 to 35 years old.
Send your resume at Unit 2007 Cityland 10 Tower 2, HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village Makati City. Tel. #: 753 2375 to 80 or e-mail at mdfgmakati@mdfg.net

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LCR FORM 10 1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that NATIVIDAD L. GOKING has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from TRINIDAD to NATIVIDAD in the Certificate of Live Birth of TRINIDAD LAO who was born on November 15, 1952 at BATUAN, BOHOL and whose parents are LAO ESING and PELAGIA PANCHO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than September 5, 2005

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI-Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460 2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732061/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6560140

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL CALL: 721-37-36

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7220433 • 4123543

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Renato M. Solman of the City of Parañaque Metro Manila, who died on Sept 21, 1993, which estate consists of shares of stock in Manulife Financial Corporation has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 9, 2005 by and among his only heirs, namely Fe Cynthia (his widow), Dennis and Richard (his sons), all surnamed Solman, wherein the sons agreed to waive their rights to said shares in favor of their mother, Fe Cynthia as evidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Eleanor A Maravilla-Ona of Dasmariñas, Cavite and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc 315 Page No 63, Book No 68, Series of 2005.
(PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOSS OF JG SUMMIT STOCK CERT. #70932 FOR 298 SHARES ISSUED TO DEOLITO DAJAY.IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED.(PDI AUG. 11,18,25,2005)

Loss of Petron stock certificate No. 523860 for 1,600 shares issued to Ma. PAZ ASUNCION ACLO ARCE and stock certificate No.523882 for 1,600 shares issued to FLORENTINO BATTUNG ARCE. If no contest received new certificates will be issued (PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW WHOLESALER 3738821

Wanted Contractor 0917-8463228

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER PASAY 510-0915

MALE/FEMALE

CAREGIVER 5280747

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Mature salespeople, Php 20,000/month, call on businessmen, companies, etc. Fax resume' to Mr. Cruz at 886-6296

THERAPIST 09209084273

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Section I

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Thermal Infra Red Imaging Camera

[Reference No.: PB050223-EL0015]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 1,360,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Thermal Infra Red Imaging Camera**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Imaging Camera*. Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commenwelath Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 25, 2005 to September 26, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of September 27, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of CASH and in the amount equivalent to 1% of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on September 27, 2005 / 2:00 P.M. at the Admin Conference Room, same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City

Tel. No. 632-9812206 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

1. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU B
   LEGAL ASSISTANT II - Item No. OMBA-LEA2-64-2004; OMBA-LEA2-65-2004; (2 Positions); SG 12
2. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU C
   LEGAL ASSISTANT II - Item No. OMBA-LEA2-45-2004; OMBA-LEA2-46-2004; OMBA-LEA2-47-2004. (3 Positions); SG 12
3. ASSETS INVESTIGATION BUREAU
   LEGAL ASSISTANT II - Item No. OMBA-LEA2-32-2004; OMBA-LEA2-52-2004; OMBA-LEA2-52-2004. (3 Positions), SG 12
4. INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
   LEGAL ASSISTANT II - Item No. OMBA-LEA2-58-2004; OMBA-LEA2-59-2004; (2 Positions), SG 12

QUALIFICATIONS: Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional)/Second Level Eligibility.

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for,
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended.
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: mluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
(RE-BID)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

Package No.	Goods	Approved Budget Per Package	Date/Time		Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	End user
			Pre-Bid Conference	Submission deadline / Opening of Bids		
1	Printing, Packaging & Storing of Teacher's Test Booklets in Elementary & Secondary Science and Math	7,800,000.00	September 8, 2005 10.00 a.m.	September 20, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php2,000.00	National Educational Testing & Research Center
2	Printing, Packaging & Delivery of Non-Classifieds Materials	200,000.00				
	Total	P8,000,000.00				

Bidders must bid for both packages. Bids received that do not bid for both packages, and exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on August 25, 2005 to September 7, 2005 upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2005)

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FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

CAPT. JOSE RENE N. JARQUE

U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York
Class 1986

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 19, 2005 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Devoted husband of **Grace de la Cruz-Jarque**;

A loving father to his three children: **Ryan Joshua, Maria Jessica,** and **Hannah Therese**;

A loving son of **BGen. Raymundo Jarque** (Ret.) and **Xania N. Jarque** and to his parents-in-law, **Capt. Melchor dela Cruz** (†) and **Zenaida de la Cruz**;

A caring brother of **Engr. Raymundo Jarque, Jr.** and **Melissa Jarque-Cunanan**;

A respected 'Mistah' of PMA Sinagtala Class of 1986.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City and will be transferred to the St. Michael's Chapel at Fort Bonifacio in the afternoon of August 26, 2005 for the necrological rites at 7:00 p.m.

Interment will be on August 27, 2005, 12:00 noon at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"Fiat Mihi Secundum Verbum Tuum!"

"Be it done unto me according to your word."
Luke 1: 38

The Religious of the Assumption
of the
Philippines~Thailand Province

recommend to your prayers

Sister Maria Carmen de Jésus

Maria del Carmen Angela Reyes y Arevalo

Former President of Assumption College – San Lorenzo
First Director of the Marie Eugenie Institute

who returned to the Father
on the Feast of St. Rose of Lima
23 August 2005

at the age of 84.
in her
60th Year of Religious Profession

Funeral Mass
Friday, 26 August 2005
2 o'clock in the afternoon
Main Chapel
Assumption, San Lorenzo

In lieu of flowers please make a contribution to the Assumption Educational Development Fund (AEDEV) and the Marie Eugenie Institute (MEI).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

On the Occasion of the

11th Death Anniversary of

NINA ESTRADA PUYAT

on August 26, 2005

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

1) **SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO** : 6:15, 7:30 am
Forbes Park, Makati 12:15 and 6:00 pm
2) **COLEGIO DE SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL** 6:45 am
Dasmariñas Village, Makati 6:45 pm
3) **ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE** .... 6:30 am
62 Constellation St., Bel-Air 6:30 pm
4) **ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH** .... 7:30 am
Pasay Road, Makati 6:00 pm
5) **ST. FRANCIS DE ASSISI CHURCH** .... 6:30 am
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong 6:00 pm
6) **OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE** .... 6:30 am
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave. 7:00 pm
7) **CHRIST THE KING** .... 7:00 am
Greenmeadows 6:00 pm
8) **PHIL. STOCK EXCHANGE CHAPEL** 12:15 pm
Tektite, Ortigas Center

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLAUDIO O. BERGANTIÑOS

Pencefully joined his Creator on August 23, 2005 at the age of 76

"Tatay, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love will live us forever."

Loving wife AURORA; children CONRAD, ARMANDO, MARILYN, LORNA; grandchildren & in-laws.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE I
Tel. Nos. 3400590 • 3400591 • 3400594 • Telefax No. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	Operation & Maintenance of MEZ STP/WRF
Location	MEZ I
Brief Description	Provision for necessary personnel to operate and maintain the STP/ WRF on 24-hour basis periodic clean up and maintenance of reuse water distribution system and sewerage collection system; installation of water meter to potential users, upkeep and cleanliness of the facilities, among others.
Approved Budget	P2,865,469.77
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	Within 30 days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/ fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 17-31, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 01, 2005, 2 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	Sept. 20, 2005, 2 p.m.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to PEZA-MEZ I Cashier. Address Bids and other communications to MEZ Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Flr. PEZA Admin Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids or any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders and assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 17 & 25, 2005)

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E-mail address: mmmh_DOH@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY / ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital through the Bids and Awards Committee INFRA is inviting from accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Interagency Committee for the following projects, licenses and registration.

	PROJECT	QUALIFICATION TO BID
PACKAGE I –	"Renovation @ O.R. 2nd floor with the Provision of R.R. at the Canopy area of the Main Building."	PCAB / INTERAGENCY CATEGORY At least MEDIUM "A" for building
PACKAGE II –	"Design, Construction, Supply and Installation of Equipment for a 40,000 GPD capacity of Waste Water Treatment Plant."	PCAB License is a Major Requirement with Specialty Works on Water Treatment Facilities

	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	PACKAGE I	PACKAGE II
	Submission of Letter of Intent PCAB License and registration (bring original copies of Contractors license) and issuance of eligibility documents	August 24, 2005 (at the Supply Office)	August 24, 2005 (at the Supply Office)
2.	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	September 07, 2005 (at the Supply Office)	September 07, 2005 (at the Supply Office)
3.	Posting of eligible contractors	September 14, 2005	September 14, 2005
4.	Issuance of Bid / Tender Documents	September 21, 2005 10:00 A.M.	September 21, 2005 1:30 P.M.
5.	Pre-bid Conference	September 28, 2005 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center) 10:00 A.M.	September 28, 2005 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center) 1:30 P.M.
6.	Submission and Opening of Bids	October 05, 2005 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center)	October 05, 2005 (at the MMMH & MC Training Center)

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payments of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) each for Project Package I and Project Package II.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government. The MMMH & MC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost of the projects will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference.

(Sgd.) MONA LIZA B. PASTRANA, M.D.
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 17 & 25, 2005)

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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED/SECOND HAND PROPERTIES

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

The National Food Authority (NFA), Region V will conduct a public bidding of the following used/second hand properties

ITEM DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
One (1) lot Unserviceable 56 units simplex silos made of trapezoidal GI sheet materials complete with ancillary equipments consists of belt conveyors, steel catwalks, centrifugal fans and elevators located at NFA-Bicol Seeds, Libon, Albay.	P 498,840.00

Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Submission of Letter of Intent	Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 2005
Issuance of Bid documents	Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 2005
Pre Bidding	Sept. 13, 2005 9:00 AM
Bidding Proper	Sept. 13, 2005
Submission of Bid	10:30 to 11:00 AM
Opening of Bids	11:00 AM

Venue for the Pre bidding and opening of Bids shall be at the Conference room, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

Bid documents shall be issued only to interested bidders upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to RBAC Secretariat not later than September 9, 2005.

Interested Bidders are advised to conduct actual inspection on the used/second hand properties, subject of the aforesaid bidding

For further inquiries, interested bidders may call or contact the RBAC Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (052) 820-0018; (052) 480-7085; (052) 480-7933.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities and accept only such bids, or award to the bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority and/or government.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI–Aug. 25, 26 & 27, 2005)

Child Health of FEU-NRMF Medical Center will hold its 17th Post-Graduate Course

THE Department of Child Health of FEU-NRMF Medical Center will hold its 17th Post-Graduate Course entitled "Solving the Puzzles in Pediatric Practice: The Continuum", on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Century Park Hotel, Malate. This is open to all general practitioners, pediatricians, Family Medicine practitioners, pediatric residents and fellows and those with special interest in Child Health.

For registration and further inquiries, please call Dr. Carlo Mendoza or Mrs. Cristy Ong at telephone/fax nos. 937-8286, 427-0213 loc. 5009 or e-mail at feupedia@yahoo.com

Previous gains seen to shield RP from woes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy has taken enough positive strides to cushion itself from recent domestic political fallout, a study by stock brokerage ATR-Kim Eng Securities indicated.

The study, written by economist Luz Lorenzo, analyzed various political regimes and their share of political crises in the last 25 years. It noted that the most disastrous to the Philippine economy was the assassination of former Senator and opposition leader Benigno Aquino in 1983.

The impact of any political turmoil is always negative for the economy but the magnitude varies depending on the health of the economy at the time of the trouble and the combination of other events, Lorenzo said.

"From the experience of previous political regimes, it is evident that stronger economic foundations help minimize the impact of political turbulence," she said.

"On this basis, it is premature to conclude that a recession or even a slowdown will materialize because of the current political troubles. Prior conditions are important. The 6.1-percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth delivered in 2004 serves as a buffer to lengthen society's forbearance while due process is observed in investigating allegations made against President Arroyo," Lorenzo said.

The 6.1-percent GDP rise in 2004, Lorenzo said, was the highest since 1989 and should contribute further to the improvement of living conditions already noted in 2003.

"This year, while we expect GDP growth to slow to 5 percent, it is premised on the impact of high oil prices and the effects of higher taxes and other costs in relation to the fiscal reform program. In exchange for slower growth this year, the promise of successful implementation of these reforms is accelerating economic growth in future years," Lorenzo said.

In addition to the lower poverty incidence, the economist said there was a host of key indicators that had been trending positively. For instance, she noted that interest rates remained at a manageable level while inflation was still not unduly high despite rising oil prices and power costs.

She said the national government had posted two monthly budget surpluses this year after four years of consistent monthly deficits and was on track to outperform its target for the year of P180 billion or 3.7 percent of GDP.

External debt as a ratio to GDP was falling while international reserves were more than adequate to meet all short-term foreign debt obligations as well as principal payments on medium- and long-term debt maturing within the next 12 months, she also pointed out.

Biofuel projects to get fiscal, non-fiscal incentives

By Christine A. Gaylican

TO ENCOURAGE investments in the country's emerging biofuel industry, the House of Representatives is preparing a list of fiscal incentives for biofuel projects.

These incentives would form part of the Biofuels Bill that Congress was expected to approve next month.

House Committee on energy vice chair Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said that under the plan, biofuel producers would be exempted from paying tariffs and duties on their importation of all types of inputs and machinery that would be used in their projects.

In terms of taxes, he said 'gasohol' would be slapped the same rate as that on unleaded gasoline at the time of the law's passage. At present unleaded gasoline is slapped an excise tax of 3 percent.

In case the tax on unleaded gasoline would be increased, Zubiri said that on 'gasohol' would remain at its original level for 10 years.

In a related development, Malacañang has issued an executive order lowering the tariff on imported ethanol products from 10 percent to 1 percent.

Non-fiscal incentives being considered by the House include the classification of all investments in the production and blending of ethanol fuel and its feedstock as pioneering or preferred areas of investment. This, he said, would entitle the project proponents to the fiscal and non-fiscal incentives provided by the Omnibus Investments Code.

Malacañang and the legislature are pushing for Biofuels bill with the expected substantial reduction in the global supply of fossil fuels by 2013.

TEXT SCAM WARNING
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr., Anti-Money Laundering Council executive director Vicente Aquino, state prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and Philippine Overseas Employment Office officer-in-charge Jay Julian warned the public against text scams. A total of 161 numbers used by text scam perpetrators had been blocked. Complaints against suspected text scam perpetrators may be filed with the AMLC. Complainants may also call the agency at 524-7011 local 2372 or the BSP at 523-4832 or 523-6210.

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Ethanol plan needs ₱37B in investments

By Abigail L. Ho

AT LEAST P37.5 billion in investments in ethanol plants are needed in the next two to three years to ensure that the country will be able to meet its target of having a 10-percent blend of ethanol in all its gasoline products.

House committee on natural resources vice chair and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said at least 25 ethanol plants would have to be put up all over the country to be able to meet that target.

Under the Department of Energy's updated Philippine Energy Plan, all local oil firms would be mandated to sell gasoline blended with at least 10 percent of ethanol in their service stations by 2007.

By 2010, oil firms should be selling gasoline with at least a 25-percent blend of ethanol.

With each plant costing around P1.5 billion, P37.5 billion in investments will have to be infused in the country's ethanol sector.

Right now, only one investor has invested in the construction of an ethanol plant: San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc. (SCBI), a joint venture between the National Development Corp. and Bronzeoak Philippines.

Upon the start of commercial operations in 2007, the SCBI integrated facility in San Carlos, Negros Occidental will be able to produce some 100,000 liters of bioethanol a day in its distillery plant.

It will also have a cane milling plant with a throughput capacity of 1,500 metric tons of cane daily, as well as a co-generation power plant that will produce around 9 megawatts (MW) of power, of which 4 MW will be sold to the grid.

Zubiri said another group had expressed interest in putting up an ethanol plant, this time in Bogo, Cebu.

Apart from the SCBI ethanol facility, he said the Negros group of islands could handle seven to nine more ethanol plants without compromising local sugar supply.

He added that Bukidnon and Davao could host two more plants, while Pampanga and Tarlac could have one plant each. Aside from the plant being eyed for construction by the undisclosed group, Cebu could host one more plant.

To encourage investments in the sector, he said the passage of the bio-ethanol law, to be renamed the biofuels law, would be fast-tracked in the House of Representatives.

He expressed confidence that the law could be passed before Congress goes on recess on the second week of September.

The proposed law contains a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that will encourage the entry of new investors in the sector. The fiscal incentives include exemption from tariff duties on the importation of equipment and machineries, as well as tax levels that are the same as those for unleaded gasoline but will remain in effect for 10 years despite any future tax hikes for unleaded gasoline.

One of the non-fiscal incentives under the bio-ethanol bill is the classification of all ethanol production and blending investments as "pioneering" or "preferred areas of investment." This entails perks of its own.

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- High air intake.
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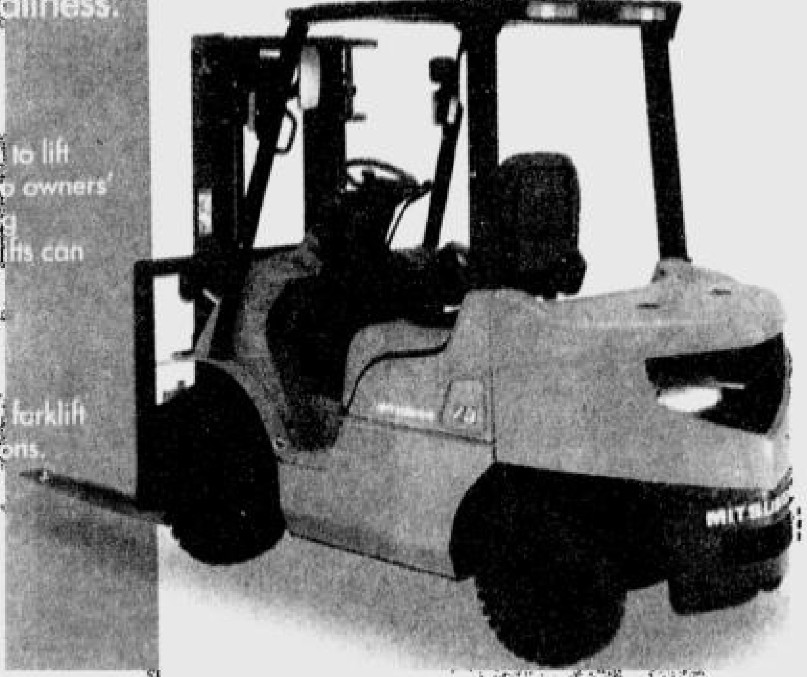

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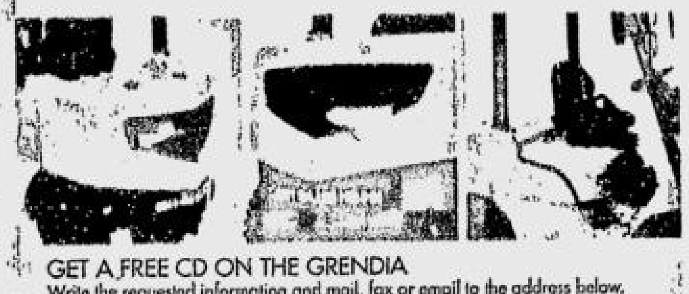

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AN AERIAL view of Clark ecozone

No-perks rule in Clark seen disastrous to RP

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Supreme Court's decision that disallowed the granting of fiscal perks to some 300 investors here and duty-free shopping privileges to residents was "disastrous to the country's economy," a Clark Development Corp. top official said on Tuesday.

CDC president Antonio Ng on Monday said the business sector in Clark "felt betrayed" that the rules in doing business here had been changed at midcourse.

He said investors are planning to either pull out, stop expansion or downscale operations because they are not anymore exempted from tax and duty incentives that lured them to this American military base-turned ecozone since 1992.

At stake were export volumes worth $980 million and the job security of nearly 37,000 workers, Ng said.

Carmen McTavish, president of the Clark Investors and Locators Association, said her group would seek help from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This is a continuing saga of special economic zones, one which started with the Camp John Hay (special economic zone)," Ng told the INQUIRER.

Like in the ruling it rendered on the case of the Baguio City-based ecozone in October 2003, the Supreme Court said in its July 29, 2005 en banc decision that business privileges could not be granted at the CSEZ.

"While Section 12 of the Republic Act 7227 (the Bases Conversion and Development Act) expressly provides for the grant of incentives to the Subic [freeport] zone, it fails to make any similar grant in favor of other economic zones, including the Clark zone," the recent court ruling said.

According to the court, tax and duty free incentives were in the nature of tax exemptions and thus, "their basis should be categorically and unmistakably expressed from the language of that law."

But this, Ng said, makes enterprises in Clark no different from other establishments outside the economic zone. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

LIFESTYLE

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Isdaan in Gerona, Tarlac, is Rod Ongpauco's version of Bali with a lot of Pinoy twists, turns and tastes

EVERYWHERE you look, *kubos*, floating and on stilts with fish on *bingwits*!

Go fish and get nasty

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

TAKE time to wonder. Without wonder, life would be mere existence." And we did just that on Aug. 18. After celebrating Dad's birthday in Agoo, we passed by Isdaan in Gerona, Tarlac. As we stepped foot into the 1.5-ha restaurant, I felt that I was walking straight into a Pinoy fantasy movie set with Balinese twists.

What greeted me were fish in all sizes, live *koi* and king fish, thousands of them! Suspended directly atop the ponds were faux bamboo *bingwits* with faux "struggling" fish attached to their hooks. Then, there were statues with water gushing from them, some 56 in all, from eight to 25 ft tall, each looking to me like a cross between Buddha and Siva with sumo hairdos. Just ahead were huge bird cages filled with parakeets. Directly in front of me, little bicycles and toys for kids to play with, as well as life jackets to protect them from the ponds that surround the whole complex.

Behind me were waiters with menus as big as campaign posters, each one carrying handheld radios, which they use to dictate orders to and from the kitchen. All around me, huts, *kubos* on stilts and floating barges! I shook to the right and there was the mini little tykes playground, I shook to the left and there was the *tacsiyapo* wall, I pointed to the east and there was the *kilohan* bridge, I pointed to the west and there was the *mahiwagang kamay!* I truly could not point to the one that I liked best! Even now, I'm still doing the bumble shake from the experience and can't seem to get over it! Have I mentioned that this development, though just halfway done, can already accommodate 450 people? Pavilions are yet to be built!

Only one thought went through my head—who could ever think of building anything as surreal as this? Turned out to be Rod Ongpauco of Barrio Fiesta, Singing Cooks and Waiters Atbp., Bento Box, World Topps, Pinoy Hotpot and Bakahan at Manukan!

Things to do

For starters there's the Tacsiyapo Wall. "*Tacsiyapo*" is a Capampangan expression which simply means anything so long as it's nasty! The wall was built for people to release anger onto

GO FISH/ C3

THE FAMOUS Glen Diaz on the San Kilo Bridge

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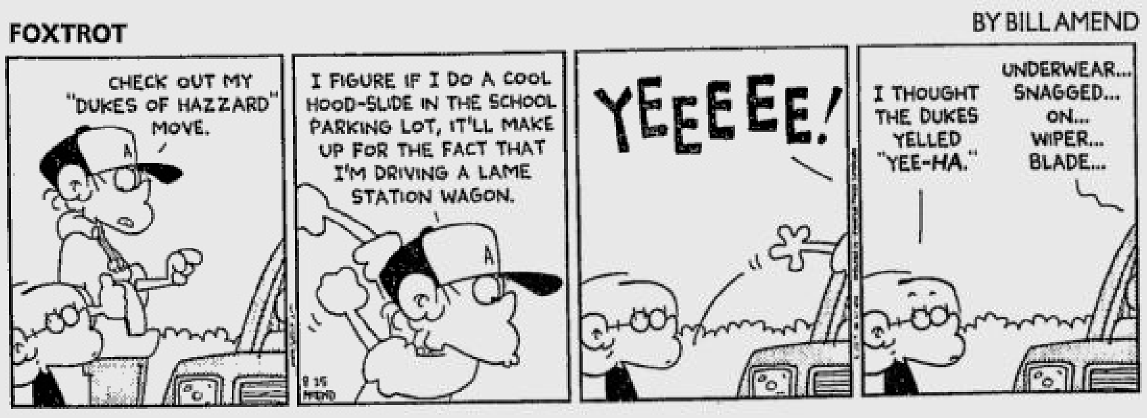
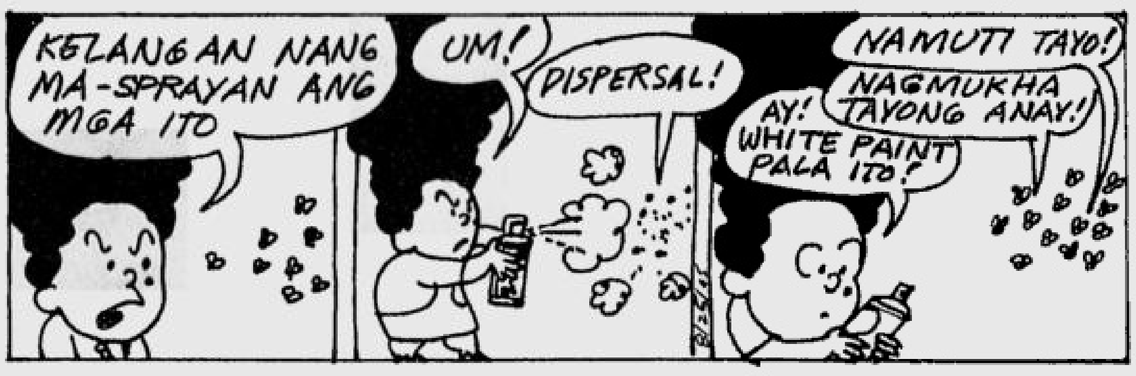
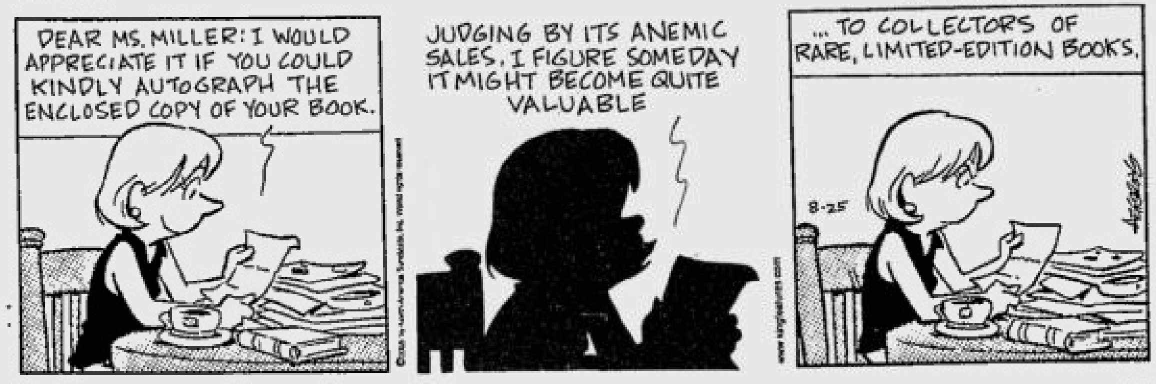
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


CHECK OUT MY "DUKES OF HAZZARD" MOVE.
I FIGURE IF I DO A COOL HOOD-SLIDE IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT, IT'LL MAKE UP FOR THE FACT THAT I'M DRIVING A LAME STATION WAGON.
YEEEEE!
I THOUGHT THE DUKES YELLED "YEE-HA."
UNDERWEAR... SNAGGED... ON... WIPER... BLADE...

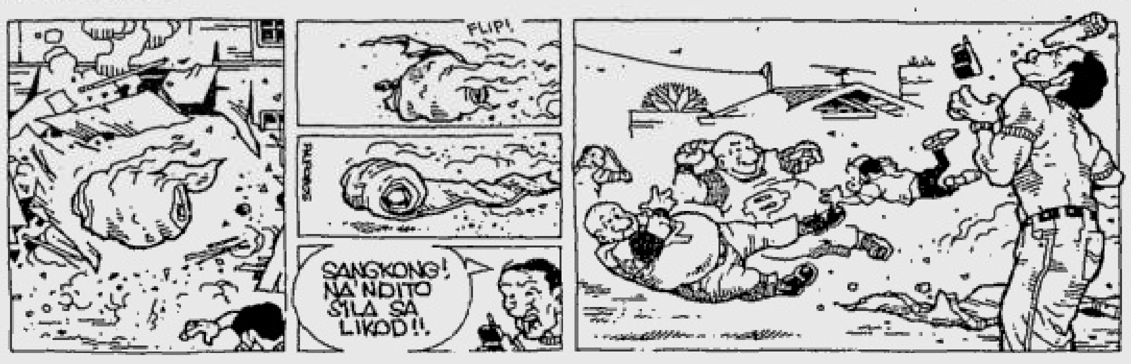
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN NANG MA-SPRAYAN ANG MGA ITO
UM!
DISPERSAL!
AY! WHITE PAINT PALA ITO!
NAMUTI TAYO!
NAGMUKHA TAYONG ANAY!

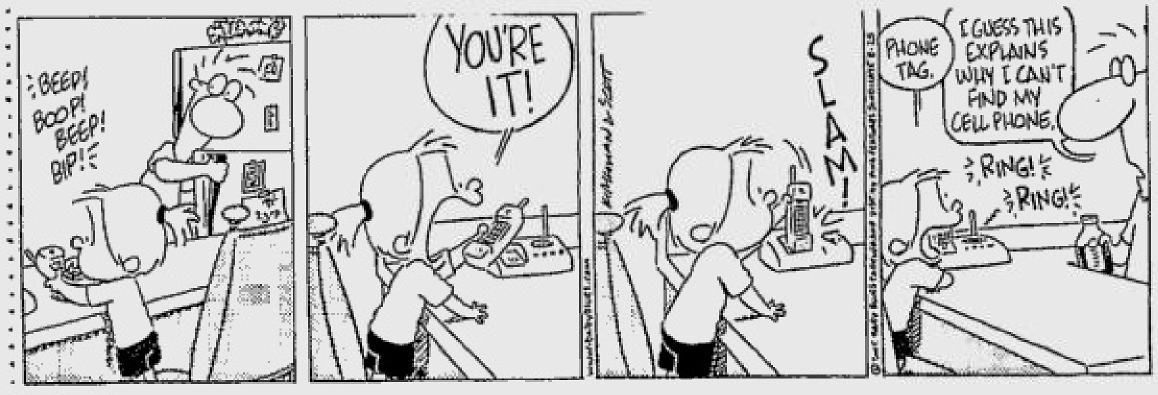
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DEAR MS. MILLER: I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD KINDLY AUTOGRAPH THE ENCLOSED COPY OF YOUR BOOK.
JUDGING BY ITS ANEMIC SALES, I FIGURE SOMEDAY IT MIGHT BECOME QUITE VALUABLE
...TO COLLECTORS OF RARE, LIMITED-EDITION BOOKS.
8-25

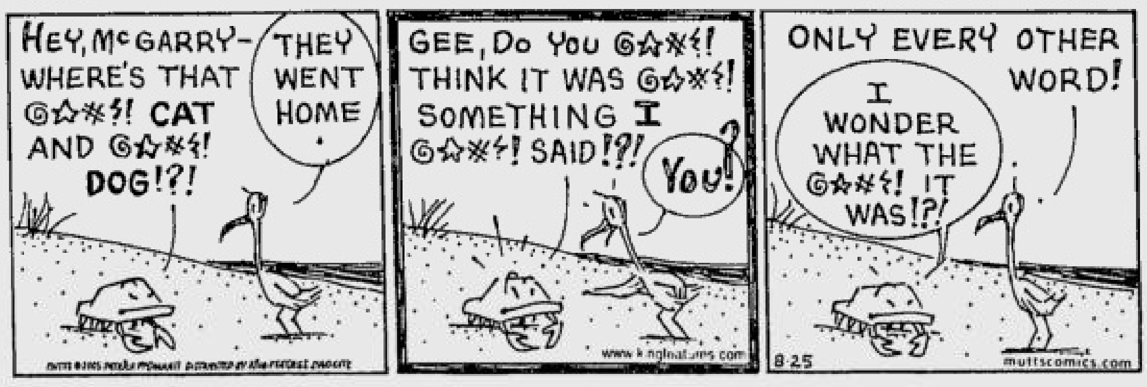
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


FLIP!
SANGKONG! NA'NDITO SILA SA LIKOD!!

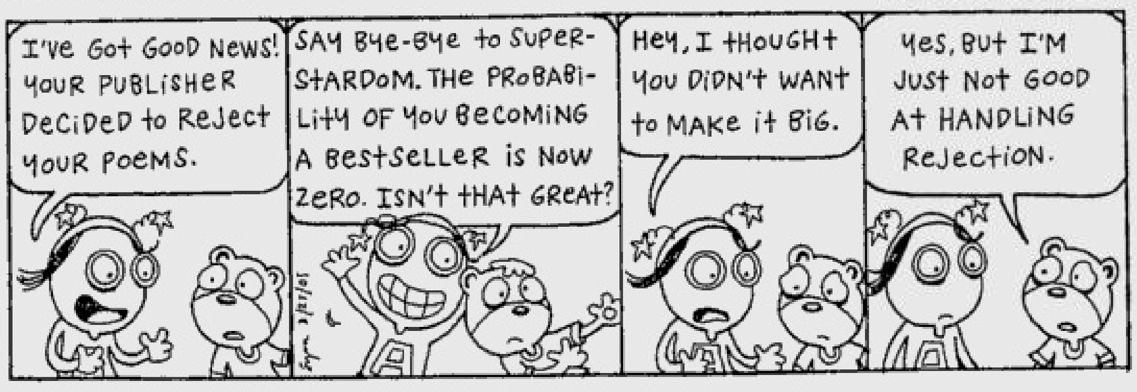
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


BEEP! BOOP! BEEP! BIP!
YOU'RE IT!
SLAM!
PHONE TAG.
I GUESS THIS EXPLAINS WHY I CAN'T FIND MY CELL PHONE.
RING! RING!

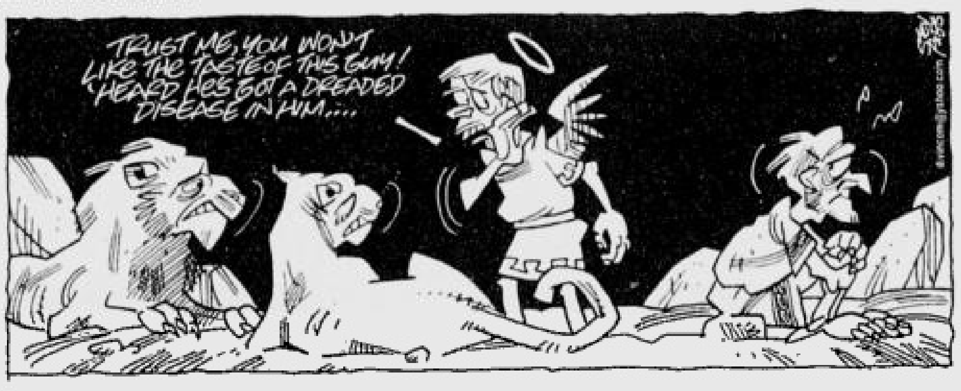
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, McGARRY– WHERE'S THAT G☆*$! CAT AND G☆*$! DOG!?!
THEY WENT HOME
GEE, DO YOU G☆*$! THINK IT WAS G☆*$! SOMETHING I G☆*$! SAID!?!
YOU?
ONLY EVERY OTHER WORD!
I WONDER WHAT THE G☆*$! IT WAS!?!
8-25
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I've Got Good News! Your Publisher Decided to Reject Your Poems.
SAY Bye-Bye to SuperStardom. The Probability of You Becoming A BestSeller is Now Zero. Isn't that Great?
Hey, I thought You Didn't Want to Make it Big.
Yes, But I'M Just Not Good At Handling Rejection.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TRUST ME, YOU WON'T LIKE THE TASTE OF THIS GUY! 'HEARD HE'S GOT A DREADED DISEASE IN HIM....

THE SALVATION OF DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're quite sexy and colorful. (And you're not shy about it.) Nevertheless, you generally use your intellectual talents to get what you want. You're extremely charming when you want to be, and often you have many love affairs. Others are sometimes surprised by your candor. Work hard this year for rewards in 2006.
Birthdate of: Sean Connery, actor; Claudia Schiffer, model; Elvis Costello, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Guard against a tendency to be verbally short with romantic interests, sports colleagues and children. You're feeling a bit aggressive today. Therefore, think before you speak.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Domestic tension (perhaps related to jealousy or envy) could ruin the peace and harmony of your home and family. Think about what's best for everyone, including you. Anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're extremely convincing today! If you teach, market, sell, persuade, write or communicate in any way, you'll be successful. Others will listen to you!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Avoid arguments about money and possessions with friends and groups. If a friend needs money, give it; don't lend it. If you lend money and the friend doesn't pay you back, then you lose both the money and the friend!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Relations with authority figures are a bit dicey today. This is not the time to challenge anyone or test your boundaries. You'll find out very quickly how touchy others are!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're determined to make travel plans or to do something related to higher education, the media and publishing. You've got the bit in your teeth, and you intend to run with it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You definitely need patience when talking to friends today. Someone is spoiling for a fight. Since disharmony upsets you, don't even go there. Protect your peace of mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You want to challenge someone's authority today. You don't want to be told what to do. However, this could land you in hot water.

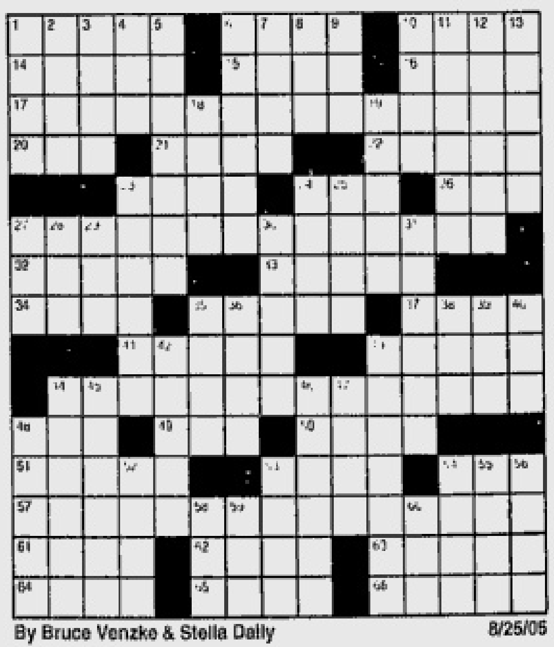
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Nothing will hold you back today from your intentions to travel or explore publishing matters. You're very determined to get your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's easy to defend your interests if you have to share something today. You feel quite territorial about things. You're also concerned about your responsibilities with children.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The fur is flying today! Arguments with family members, partners and close friends are likely. But what's the point? Your victory will be hollow. Why not promote the peace instead?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're a real dynamo at work today. You have very definite ideas about what you want to do, and you intend to carry them out. Watch out, world!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
8/25/05

ACROSS
1 Thespian
6 Composition for two
10 Spring resorts
14 Rich dessert
15 Villa d'__
16 Slangy disposition
17 Start of a query
20 Peak
21 Etcher's need
22 Not ready
23 Editor's instruction
24 Pouch
26 __-Magnon
27 Part 2 of query
32 Sky-lit lobbies
33 Muse of verse
34 River of Belgium
35 Market figures
37 London art gallery
41 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
43 Patronage
44 Part 3 of query
48 Hankering
49 Pipe buildup
50 Head signals
51 Load lightener
53 __-mutuel
54 Mom's mate
57 End of query
61 British submachine gun
62 African lily
63 Exterior
64 Recipe meas.
65 Painful cry
66 Indian jacket style

DOWN
1 Element fig.
2 Type of salmon
3 Golf course hazard
4 Giant slugger
5 Series of yacht races
6 Danny of "Get Shorty"
7 Exploited
8 UFO personnel
9 "The Daughter of Time" author
10 Knock senseless
11 Coup d'etat
12 Stick
13 Look after
18 Tracy Marrow on stage
19 Relative of should
23 "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" writer
24 Au naturel
25 Gray and Candler
27 Comic Romano
28 __ not my job!
29 Senior test letters
30 Amazon city
31 Tribal symbols
35 Sp. miss
36 Winged
38 Grow mellower
39 Sardine container
40 Superlative suffix
42 Hanna-Barbera dog
43 "The Spectator" co-founder
44 Big spreads
45 Top of the foot
46 Tooth cover
47 Purple seaweed
48 Leavening ingredient
52 Geological time periods
53 Ship's front
54 Essence
55 Done with
56 Lima's land
58 Settle a debt
59 "Do Ya" grp.
60 Litigate

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	C	O	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	T	A	N	S
C	R	O	P	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	A	N	O	A
T	A	M	E	■	T	E	N	O	R	■	C	A	V	S
■	■	B	R	A	S	S	K	N	U	C	K	L	E	S
I	L	I	A	D	■	S	S	E	■	A	L	O	N	E
N	A	N	T	E	S	■	■	■	O	M	E	G	A	S
G	R	E	E	N	T	H	U	M	B	S	■	■	■	■
A	D	D	S	■	E	R	N	I	E	■	T	A	T	A
■	■	■	■	S	W	E	A	T	Y	P	A	L	M	S
P	R	A	T	E	S	■	■	■	S	A	B	L	E	S
E	E	R	I	E	■	A	S	K	■	C	O	U	N	T
S	T	I	C	K	Y	F	I	N	G	E	R	S	■	■
T	A	S	K	■	E	L	M	E	R	■	E	I	R	E
E	P	E	E	■	T	A	B	L	A	■	T	O	U	T
R	E	S	T	■	I	T	A	L	Y	■	S	N	E	E

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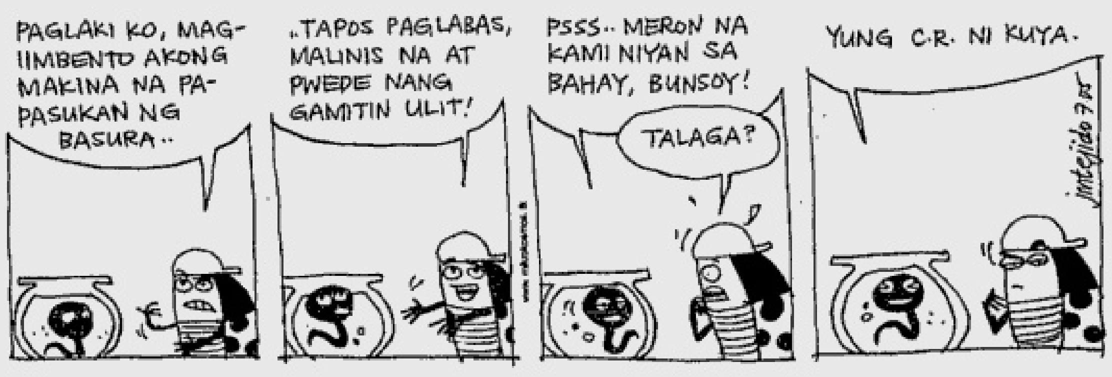
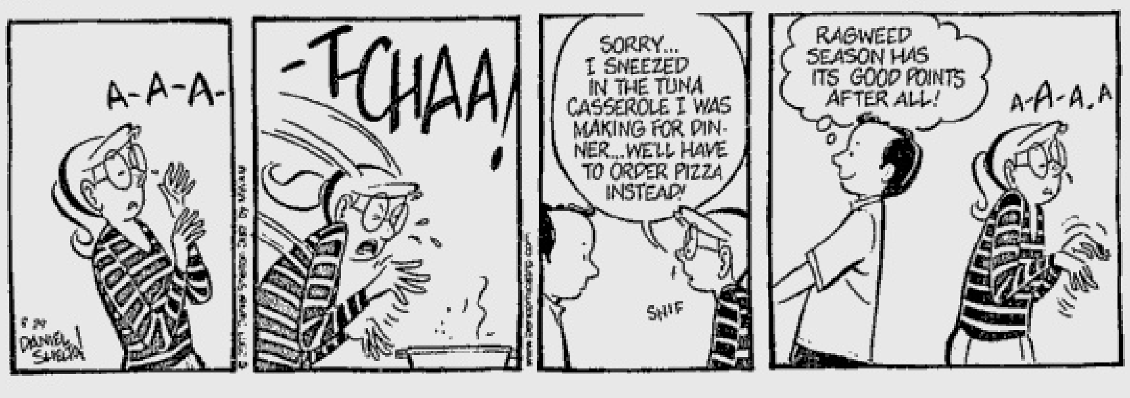
8/25/05

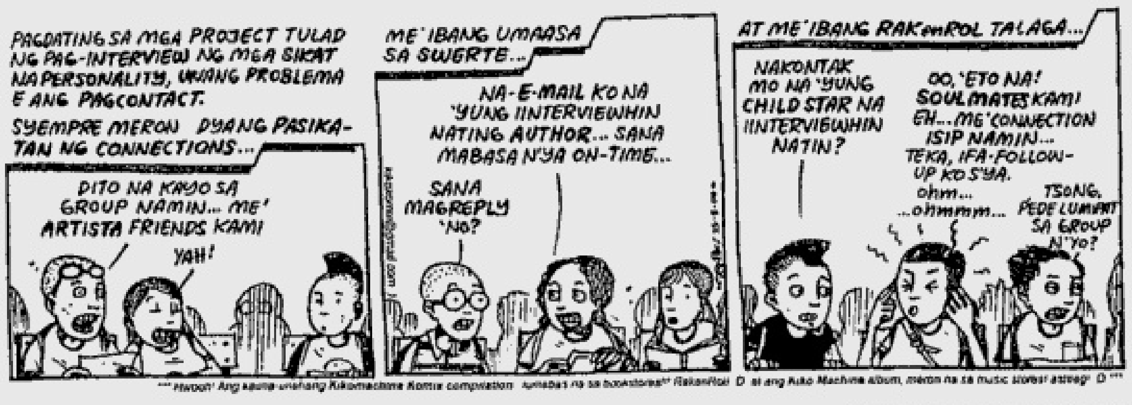
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, MAG-IIMBENTO AKONG MAKINA NA PAPASUKAN NG BASURA..
..TAPOS PAGLABAS, MALINIS NA AT PWEDE NANG GAMITIN ULIT!
PSSS.. MERON NA KAMI NIYAN SA BAHAY, BUNSOY!
TALAGA?
YUNG C.R. NI KUYA.

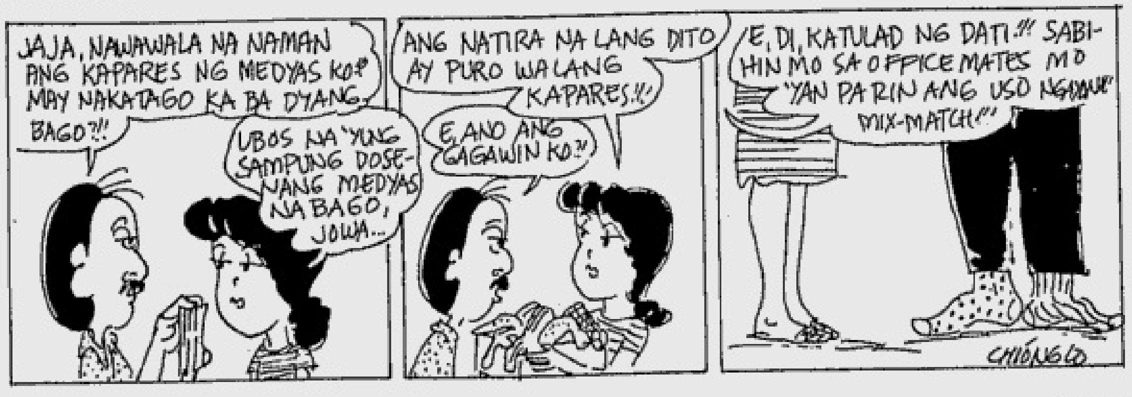
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


A-A-A-
-TCHAA!
SORRY... I SNEEZED IN THE TUNA CASSEROLE I WAS MAKING FOR DINNER... WE'LL HAVE TO ORDER PIZZA INSTEAD!
SNIF
RAGWEED SEASON HAS ITS GOOD POINTS AFTER ALL!
A-A-A-A

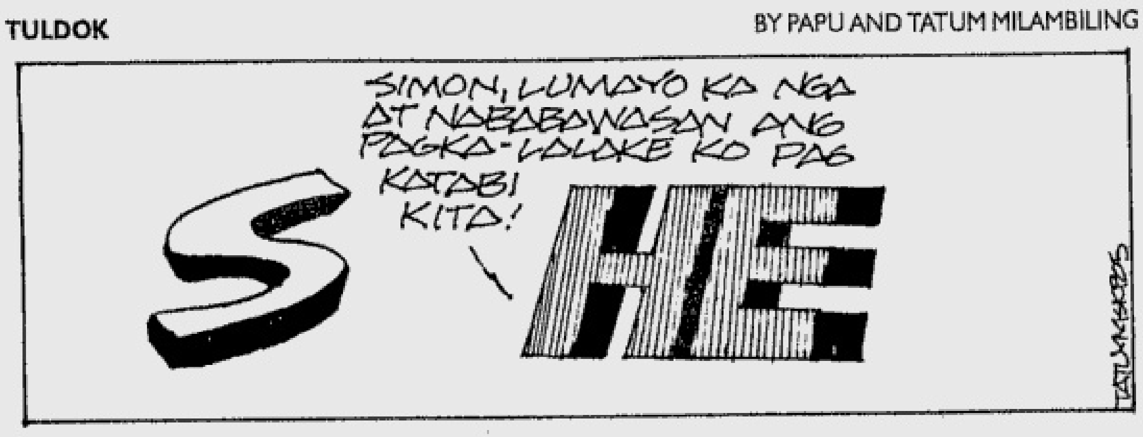
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


PAGDATING SA MGA PROJECT TULAD NG PAG-INTERVIEW NG MGA SIKAT NA PERSONALITY, WALANG PROBLEMA E ANG PAGCONTACT.
SYEMPRE MERON DYANG PASIKATAN NG CONNECTIONS...
DITO NA KAYO SA GROUP NAMIN... ME' ARTISTA FRIENDS KAMI
YAH!
ME' IBANG UMAASA SA SWERTE...
NA-E-MAIL KO NA 'YUNG IINTERVIEWHIN NATING AUTHOR... SANA MABASA N'YA ON-TIME...
SANA MAGREPLY 'NO?
AT ME' IBANG RAKenROL TALAGA...
NAKONTAK MO NA 'YUNG CHILD STAR NA IINTERVIEWHIN NATIN?
OO, 'ETO NA! SOULMATES KAMI EH... ME' CONNECTION ISIP NAMIN... TEKA, IFA-FOLLOW-UP KO S'YA. ohm... ...ohmmm...
TSONG, PEDE LUMIPAT SA GROUP N'YO?
*** Hwooh! Ang kauna-unahang Kikomachine Komix compilation lumabas na sa bookstores!! RakenRol :D at ang Kiko Machine album, meron na sa music stores! astig! :D ***

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, NAWAWALA NA NAMAN ANG KAPARES NG MEDYAS KO! MAY NAKATAGO KA BA DYANG BAGO?!!
UBOS NA 'YUNG SAMPUNG DOSENANG MEDYAS NA BAGO, JOWA...
ANG NATIRA NA LANG DITO AY PURO WALANG KAPARES!!
E, ANO ANG GAGAWIN KO?!
E, DI, KATULAD NG DATI!!! SABIHIN MO SA OFFICE MATES MO 'YAN PA RIN ANG USO NGAYON: MIX-MATCH!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIMON, LUMAYO KA NGA AT NABABAWASAN ANG PAGKA-LALAKE KO PAG KATABI KITA!
S
HE

TEMPURANG Bukid

SABAW sa Buho

Go fish and get nasty

From page C1

by throwing plates, jars, etc... The idea is to pick a trajectory point, pretend it's your, say, mother-in-law, aim, shout "Tacsiyapo" and throw the plate, releasing all pent-up emotions you may have toward her!

My sisters and I, being the Ilokanas that we are, picked the cheapest plates to throw at P15. Anything more costly would have made us angry at ourselves for wasting money! Thing is, someone threw a television set!

Then there's the San Kilo Bridge, a hundred-meter long, seven-inch wide foot bridge, more like a slightly elevated balance beam, with seashell hurdles. Immediately below is the 9-ft deep *palaisdaan*. If you can cross the bridge carrying a pail of water—without falling into the pond, of course—while loud music is being pumped in the background, you get a kilo of fish for free cooked exactly the way you want it.

My brother wasn't too keen on the idea and neither were the other men with us. The exception was my ever loyal, ever true driver, Glen, who I managed to coerce. I promised him that I was going to publish his photo. His knees wouldn't stop shaking after! The price he had to pay for stardom and free fish!

Fortune

For good fortune seekers, there's Free the Birds. Buy a bird, make a wish and release it. And the Mga Mahiwagang Kamay na Bato, a giant pair of hands located opposite each other. Myth has it that wishes made on the *kamay* come true! For those who want to get physical, jog around the *palaisdaan!* For entertainment, call on the Sariling Kayod Musikeros. For P20, choose from 12 groups of musikeros (solos, duets, trios, magicians) who come decked as singing cooks and even as Elvis. Have them entertain you in your private *kubo!* What a blast! And those are just things to see and do!

MGA Mahiwagang Kamay

Exotic dishes

Now on to the food... Isdaan offers specialties from Bakahan at Manukan, as well as new exotic dishes created by Rod himself that include a lot of Buho (bamboo) Cooking—Sinigang and Gata sa Buho. There's Innapoy, (Ilokano for rice), Stuffed Native Rice Rolls, Lumpiang Bukid, Ihaw-ihaw and Pancit by the Kilo and Tempurang Bukid. For breakfast there's Fiesta ng Ebon–*iba't ibang luto ng itlog* ("*ebon*" is Capampangan for "egg") with black rice (sauce of *adobong pusit* mixed with rice and salted fish).

Up next, believe it or not, soon to stand a hundred meters away from Isdaan, will be Barrio Fiesta Island! A mini Nayong Pilipino where Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao shall be paid tribute to by sight, sound and, of course, Barrio food!

Mr. Ongpauco does it again! He built and we came, so the story goes, as it's been for many years! *Sa iyo Rod, sa katuparan ng iyong mga pangarap, mabuhay!*

To those traveling to the North, this is an experience not to be missed, even if just once in your lifetime!

Isdaan Floating Resto-Park —halfway to the North—is in Gerona, Tarlac (tel. 045-9312196).

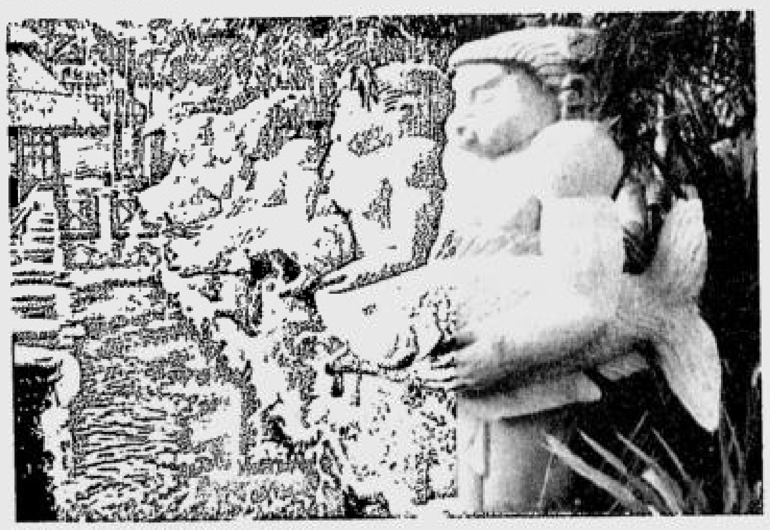
KR goes back to normal next week!

For questions and comments text 0917 - 8399888.

UNDERNEATH you, a myriad of colors

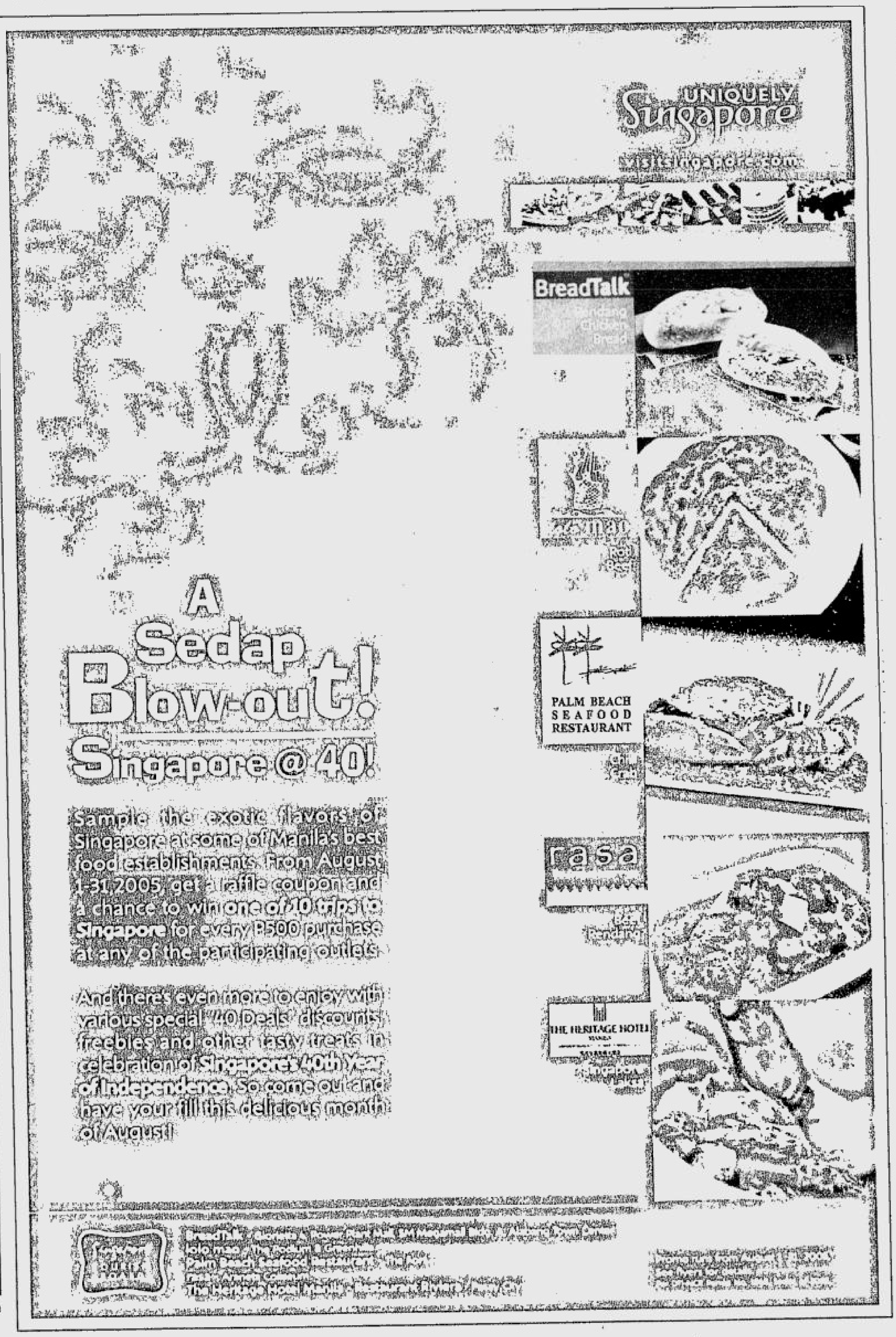
SHOUT "TACSIYAPO" BEFORE SMASHING YOUR PLATES
Usurer!
Professor
Ex-Wife
5/6
Kumare Kumpare!
Taksil
Flirt Lover

RELEASE anger at the Tacsiyapo Wall



EVERYWHERE, 8-ft statues

THE PHOTO captures the entrance yet is a poor depiction of how the façade really looks and what lies ahead.



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visitsingapore.com

A Sedap Blow-out!
Singapore @ 40!

Sample the exotic flavors of Singapore at some of Manila's best food establishments. From August 1-31, 2005, get a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of 10 trips to Singapore for every P500 purchase at any of the participating outlets.

And there's even more to enjoy with various special "40 Deals" discounts, freebies and other tasty treats in celebration of Singapore's 40th Year of Independence. So come out and have your fill this delicious month of August!

BreadTalk
PALM BEACH SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
rasa
THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA

Is your fresh milk really fresh?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

An officer of a cooperative sees a need to clarify terms used by dairy producers

IT IS heartening to know that, because of the government's cattle dispersal program, more farmers are now raising dairy cows and supplying fresh milk to consumers in their communities and neighboring areas.

In several parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, farmers who are raising dairy cows, have formed cooperatives to allow them to better manage and market their milk production. Zambales, I am told, is now starting its own milk processing plant.

The volume of production is still small, but it's good news nonetheless. Salvacion Bulatao, administrator of the National Dairy Authority (NDA), said local milkmen could supply only one percent of the domestic requirement for ready-to-drink fresh milk.

But the situation was improving, she added, because of the cattle dispersal program. Farmers can own milking cows through a financing scheme arranged by the Department of Agriculture. Technology transfer is part of the assistance package.

Recently, I had a chance to visit the milk processing plant of the Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (NMFDC) where fresh milk from dairy cows of members is processed into different commercial products with the brand name "Highland Fresh."

With technology learned from Dutch experts, the federation is now producing fresh milk (including fruit-flavored—mango and melon, so far), yoghurt, butter, choco-milk, cheese (white and herbal) and candy bars. It is also the only producer in the country of gouda, the Dutch semi-soft, cream-colored cheese from whole or partly skimmed milk.

According to Cresencio Barros Jr., president of the federation, "Highland Fresh products are available in grocery stores and malls in northern Mindanao, Caraga and Zamboanga-Sibugay regions. Sales people also sell the products to *sari-sari* stores and households in subdivisions.

"The federation also supplies milk to local governments for their milk feeding program in public schools," he added.

Concern

As the dairy industry slowly expands, it is faced with problems that need immediate solution for it to sustain its growth. At the top of the list is the high cost of imported dairy animals.

In a position paper he sent to authorities, Barros wrote, "For lack of our own dairy breed stocks, we depend on costly cows from New Zealand and Australia." He added that, last year, the landed cost of a New Zealand cow in Cagayan de Oro was P75,000. He expected it to increase to as much as P85,000 this year.

He also alleged mislabeling and false claims for some milk. "Others are UHT (ultra heat treated) milk thereby destroying the micronutrients, and vitamin contents of the milk and yet it is labeled as 'fresh milk'?" Real fresh milk, he said, had a short shelf-life, about a week, while UHT made it possible to keep milk for a longer period.

Barros also pointed out major dairy companies were using skimmed (powdered) milk from abroad. Water is re-added when the milk gets here.

Barros urged the government to beef up the Generic Improvement Program of the Bureau of Animal Industry to produce better quality Philippine breeds of cows, carabaos and goats.

(The Philippine Carabao Center in Nueva Ecija is actually already working on improving carabao breeds. It has also a modest commercial production of fresh milk, mozzarella cheese, butter, *kesong puti*.)

For more information on Highland Fresh products, send text to or call Barros at 0920-9145955 or write to the Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives, El Salvador, Misamis Oriental.

Website

I apologize for the confusion regarding the web site of e-mail sender Lorna Lopez. I mentioned that Lopez had started her own weblog (or online journal) for consumers to share comments and experiences.

Thanks to e-mail sender Pia Tablanza for providing some clarification. She wrote: "I tried going to Lorna Lopez's site that you mentioned in your column on the horrors of dining out. I found that the web site was the address of a singing group named 'bachelor-girl.' Please note that Ms Lopez' site is: www.thebachelor-girl.com/category/caught. This will bring you to her dining horror's page. The www.bachelor-girl.com, however, will bring you to the band's site (which takes soooo long to open)."

E-mail mvgiron07@yahoo.com.

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City
About Chef Dennis: Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist* Owner of Jocunde Cakes!* Took over classes from the Famed Gourmet, Maur Aquino Lichauco in New Manila*Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion En-Ming Hsu of the Ritz Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel), Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist- Betty Van Norstrand, Food Stylist-Delores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines
September 3, 2005: CRAZY OVER OREOS (A Tribute to an All Time Favorite) NEW CLASS Oreo Torte, Oreo Blondies, Mini Oreo Cakes, Oreo Streusel Loaf Cake, Oreos and Toffee Cookies-P1600
September 17, 2005: CLASSIC FILIPINO CAKES & TORTES (A Tribute to Old Family Treats) NEW CLASS Nelusco Cake (Moist Chocolate Cake with a Caramel Coffee Filling and Fudge Icing), Pandan Sans Rival, Crema de Fruita, Mango Cream Pie, Canonigo with Custard Cream-P1600
September 24, 2005: SWEET MUNCHIES (Irresistible Baked Treats) NEW CLASS Chocolate Bailey's Shortbread Cookies, Cream Cheese Swirled Coffee Cake, Decadent Chestnut Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Pie, Whole Wheat Date Nut Bread-P1600
October 1, 2005: SINFUL CHOCOLATE INDULGENCES (Simply Divine) NEW CLASS Toblerone & Cream Cheese Torte, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Butter Loaf, Dark Chocolate & Peanut Butter Streusel Loaf, Cheesecake Filled Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Syrup Brownies-P1600
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Steaks, sauces and sides

DINING OUT

OUTBACK Restaurant offers beef dishes plus a variety of chicken, ribs, seafood and pasta items. Its steak selections are grilled and served with the Walkabout Soup O' The Day or Garden Fresh Caesar Salad. Steaks available include Angus Filet, Prime Minister's Prime Rib, Bonzer Ribeye and Porterhouse. Sauces are Mushroom Peppercorn, Maison Butter and Classic Cabernet while side dishes include Cabernet Mushrooms, Wedge Potatoes or Parmesan Veggies. Outback has branches in Glorietta 4, Makati; Libis, Quezon City; and Alabang Town Center, Alabang.

ITALIANNI'S opens its biggest branch in SM Megamall A. The new outlet features a Gelato Corner, Panatteria Corner and Coffee Corner. The restaurant's menu includes Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio, Sicilian Chicken Salad, Chicken Italianni's, Angel Hair Pomodoro, New York-style Cheesecake and Tartuffo. Italianni's also has branches in Greenbelt 2; Glorietta IV; Alabang Town Center; SM City Bicutan; Greenhills, Eastwood, Libis; Gateway Mall, Araneta Center and Tomas Morato, QC.

BELLEVUE Hotel offers Durian Cake as its cake of the month for September. Call 7718181.

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie presents the Provencale-Mediterranean Gourmet Food promo, available for lunch Monday to Friday. For P1,200++ per person, a guest can order as much as he likes from an a la carte menu. For P600++ per person, one can have bottomless wines with his meals. For only P500, one can be a member of InterContinental Manila's Gourmet Club. Members enjoy discount privileges at various hotel restaurants and bar. They are also entitled to 10 percent discount on select Jeepney Deli Shop items. The card is valid until Dec. 30. Call 8159711.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Yurakuen adds Light Meal to its menu. It includes Teriyaki Chicken Cream Croquette, Okonomiyaki, Teppan Tofu Steak and Ebi Gyoza. New desserts like Macha Ice Cream and Mango Pudding are also available. Call 5283000.

Seminar on managing restos, canteens

MB&G/ProActive is conducting a seminar-workshop on **Managing a Restaurant/Canteen**, 1-5 p.m., August 29 - September 2, 2005, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Reservations are currently being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For more details, call Mr. Manu Ofiaza at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is P5,000.00 per participant inclusive of all workshop materials.

The five-day training will cover, among other things, planning the concept, menu, location, equipment and personnel; costing, pricing, cost control and purchasing.

MB&G/ProActive has been in the business of training foodservice executives and business owners since 1989. Advt.

CAFE IN THE PARK
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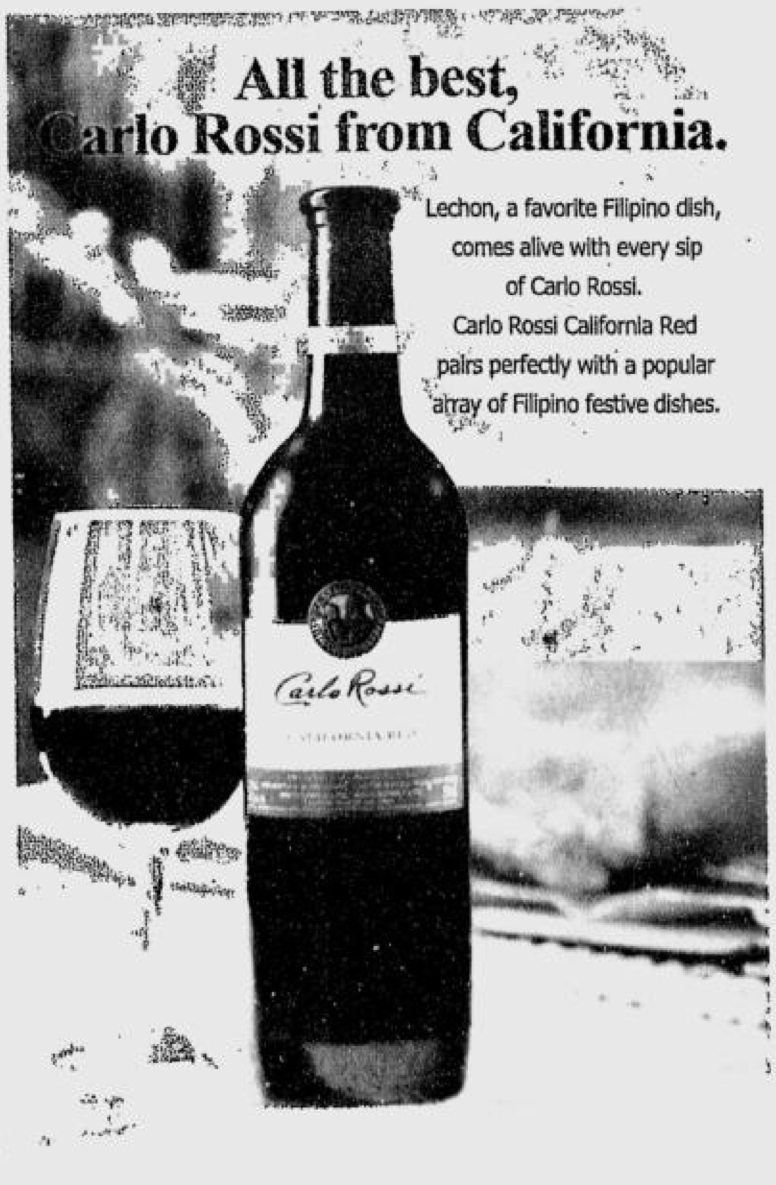

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.
Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.

Be cool with these treats

BURGER KING introduces the Bkool Treats, five new items to complement your fire-grilled burgers and filling rice meals.

Take a sundae cone and dip it in either chocolate or caramel to get a Bkone. The light and easy dessert is also light on the pocket at only P12.

The King Float is a generous serving of Coke or Sarsi, topped with soft-serve, creamy vanilla ice cream with thick chocolate syrup.

The Brownie a la Mode is a creamy chocolate cupcake topped with vanilla ice cream. For a warm dessert, there is Apple Pie.

King Sundaes, in chocolate and strawberry flavors, are available at only P25 each.

BKONES
Cool dips in your choice of chocolate or caramel
KING FLOAT
King size Coke or Sarsi Float!
Coca-Cola

MARGARITA Fores
and her seafood revolution
/D4

LIFESTYLE

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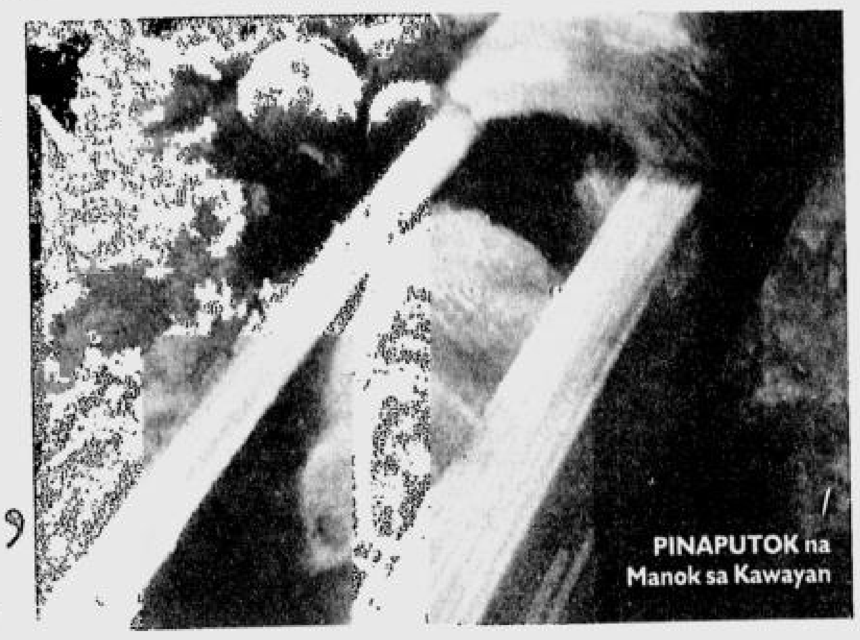
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

Grandpa's WWII 'recipe for survival'



PINAPUTOK na Manok sa Kawayan

By Romnie G. Cepe

IT WAS during World War II that this tasty, juicy and unique dish was discovered by our great grandfather.

According to our grandmother, as they evacuated and hid from Japanese soldiers, resources were limited and food preparation had to be done hurriedly.

My great grandfather used to hide from the Japanese behind clumps of bamboo that was very abundant then. One day, they trapped a chicken for lunch.

They didn't have any cooking utensils so they improvised, using for pot a node of freshly cut bamboo that they put over a camp fire.

My great grandfather got so used to cooking chicken in a bamboo that even after the war ended he would prepare it for his family, passing on the recipe to the next generation, specifically my grandmother. She made it her specialty, enhancing the taste by adding lemongrass, tamarind leaves, garlic and onions.

We are very close as a family, finding time for get-togethers, spending weekends or vacations at the ancestral house, going on picnics at the beach and camping. Of course, Pinaputok na Manok sa Kawayan is a regular feature of such activities.

I am already a fourth generation member of our family but this dish remains a favorite, always on the menu to welcome cousins or close relatives who are visiting.

GRANDPA'S/ D2

Send us your family recipes

DO you have a cherished family recipe that uses traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients? Send it to us and you might win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. Tell us (1) who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; (2) how many generations have cooked it; (3) when it is usually cooked and served; and (4) why it is special to the family. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263, or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Basic Basics Enhanced Series...Plus

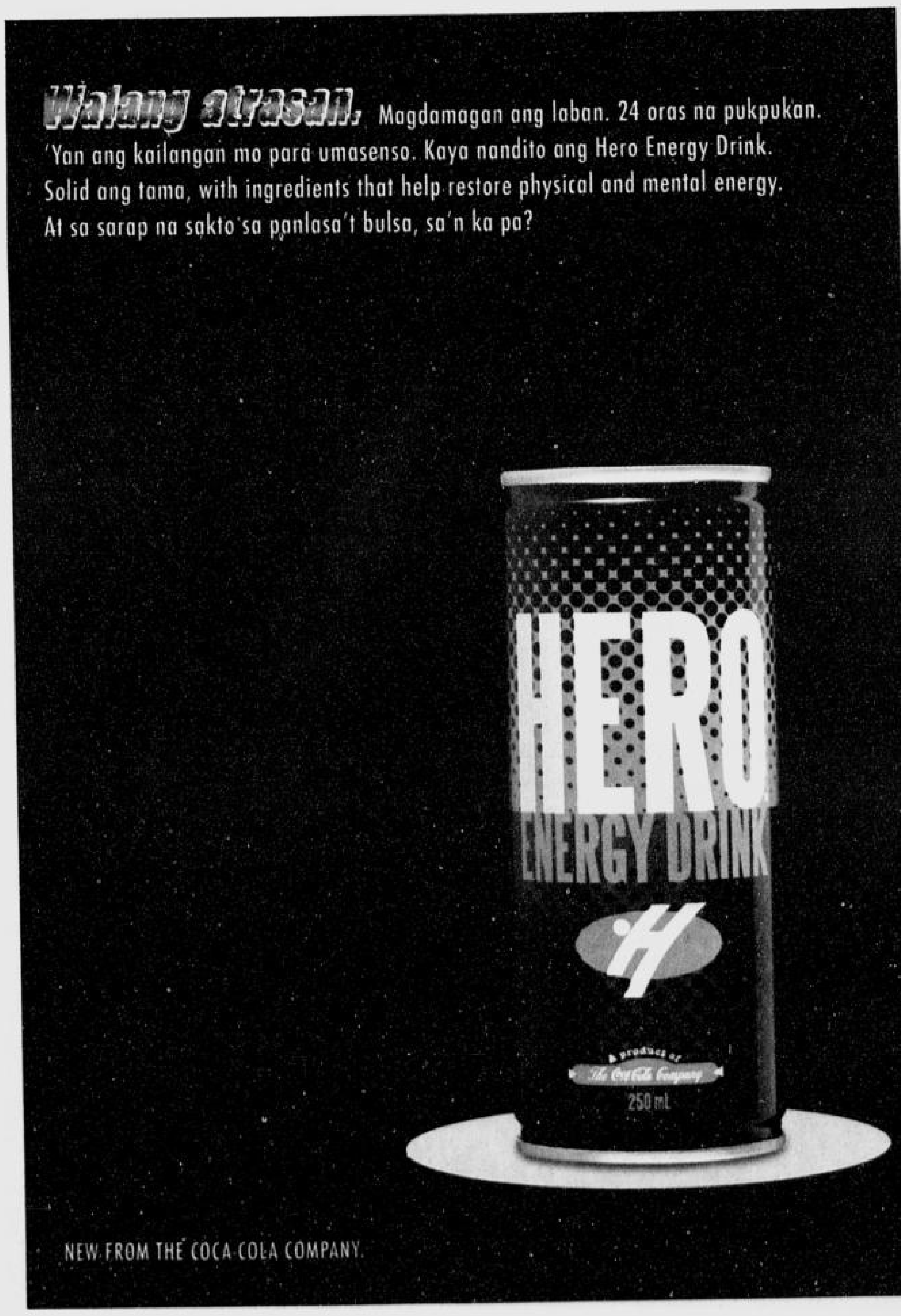
Due to insistent public demand, the Maya Kitchen brings back its very popular all-in-one workshop that a newbie gourmet needs to know more about... **cooking, baking from scratch and pre-mixes, Japanese dishes, cake decorating and topics on waitering and bartending.** So whether you want to embark on a new career, cultivate your creativity or simply amaze your family and friends with newfound cooking skills - the Maya Kitchen's all-in-one-workshop will help you achieve your goal. Enroll now!

Baking with pre-mixes: Aug. 27 (Sat) 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Decadence Cake with Caramel Syrup, Black Forest Brownie, Crema de Fruta, Food for the Gods, Scramble Bars, Banana Walnut Muffins. P750. Avail of discount on Maya premixes. Buy any 3 & get P50 off on tuition fees.
Japanese Cooking: Sept. 3 (Sat) 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi assorted nigiri and sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California maki. P1,000 with free Japanese cookbook.

CERTIFICATE COURSES (Limited enrolment. Pre-registration required. Ingredients, Apron, chef's hat included.)
Basic Cooking: Aug. 30-Sept. 2; Sept. 13-16 or Sept. 27-30 (T-F) 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. More topics included! Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000
Basic Baking: Sept. 6-9 or Sept. 20-23 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to the preparation of different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. P4,000 with free cookbook.
Basic Cake Decorating: Sept.10 & 17 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating:coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing);basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching techniques.Individual workshop on icing application & cake designing. P3,000
Basic Waitering & Bartending: Sept. 17 & 24 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Basic setup, techniques of suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding & skirting, Bar tools and glass wares, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish. With actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting. P3,000

Other Services:* *Recipe Research & Product Development; Food & Beverage Consultancy & Staff Training; Provincial Demonstration; On-the-Job Training Program.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*



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'Yan ang kailangan mo para umasenso. Kaya nandito ang Hero Energy Drink.
Solid ang tama, with ingredients that help restore physical and mental energy.
At sa sarap na sakto sa panlasa't bulsa, sa'n ka pa?

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DEMONSTRATION-STUDENT PARTICIPATION METHOD. ALL COURSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS & NON-BEGINNERS. HANDS-ON IN ALL COURSES. FEES INCLUSIVE OF INGREDIENTS

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST
Academia de Gastronomos
Madrid, Spain - 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

LEARN AND EARN!
PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, CHICAGO, U.S.A. - ONLY ONE IN THE PHILIPPINES
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

»ALL COURSES BY LENI LAST OFFER FOR THIS YEAR. NEXT OFFER WILL BE FEBRUARY 2006«

AUG 25 THU 2:00 - 5:30PM - LEARN TO BAKE & DECORATE WILTON ALL OCCASION COOKIES ON POPSICLE STICKS. P600. PLEASE BRING 3 PIPING BAGS W/ COUPLERS, 1 STAR & 1 ROUND TIP (ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT SHAW BLVD) **BY LENI**

AUG 26 FRI 2:30 - 6:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT FILLING & PICKLED MUSTASA). FISH HEAD SOUP. CAMARON RELLENADO; QUIKIAM W/ RADISH SALAD. STEAMED LAPULAPU. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

HOME BUSINESS

AUG 28 SUN 2:00 - 6:30PM - MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3 - LEARN 7 OF YOUR FAVORITES: FOOTLONG HOTDOGS BEEF SAUSAGES JERKY USING "VIPPI" CASING USED FOR HOTDOG-MAKING, WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN 5-STAR HOTELS & RESTAURANTS, PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO, LONGANIZA LUCBAN. **P1,500. BY LENI**

BAKE SHOPS

AUG 30 & SEP 6 - 2 TUESDAYS 2:30 - 5:30PM - P1,800 - MONEY-MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES COURSE - (#1 SELLER IN MANILA) - CHOCOLATE-COATED POPCORN, CREAM-FILLED CUPCAKES, STICKY WALNUT BROWNIES; CHUNKY CHOCO COOKIES; GERMAN STYLE FUDGE CAKE W/ ICING, CHOCOLATE TURTLE CHEESECAKE SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE; SYRUPY BROWNIES, WALNUT CRUNCH BROWNIES, NEW ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES. THE BEST MELT-IN-THE-MOUTH TIRAMISU #2. **BY ERNEST**

SEP 1 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM - GRILLING, SIZZLING, FRYING! SISIG CAPAMPANGAN SIZZLING TADYANG NG BAKA; NEW BONELESS MAGNOLIA CHICKEN FILLET B-B-Q ON STICKS. KWEK-KWEK (COATED QUAIL EGGS ON A STICK W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE). CRISPY BUCHI ASADO PAO. **P1,200. BY ERNEST & SYLVIA**

SEP 2 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN - JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN W/ GRAVY, CHICKEN BURGER; DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD, SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS; FOUR SEASONS PUNCH; RIPE MANGO JUICE MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO GREEN MANGO JUICE. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 4, 11 18 - SUNDAYS - 9:00AM - 5:00PM (3 LESSONS) FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE. P3,500. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS, LUNCH & SNACKS.
LESSON 1 - DAISY, TULIP, SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA. MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES, STAMENS & CALYXES FOR FUTURE USE
LESSON 2 - CAKE (STYRO) COVERED W/ FONDANT ICING & 'CUT GLASS' TECHNIQUE. MAKE GUMAMELA, LILIES, STEPHANOTIS, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNATION, DAFFODIL, WILTON ROSE VICTORIA ROSE.
LESSON 3 - ORCHID. GUMPASTE RIBBONS & SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME) **BY LENI**

SEP 5 MON 2:30 - 5:30PM - UBE CHIFFON CAKE; ROCKY ROAD. MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE. FOOD FOR THE GODS & WALNUT BROWNIES. PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS & MUFFINS. DELICIOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS! ALL CAKES W DIFFERENT ICINGS! **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 7 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS W/ HOISIN SAUCE. MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS IN HONEY SAUCE; (SATE A JAM) CHICKEN SKEWERS I PEANUT SAUCE. BEEF RIBS W. PEKING NOODLES: DELICIOUS PORK SPARERIBS; NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBECUE; NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN FRIED RICE); FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA'S CHICKEN HONEY: THE BEST PORK BARBECUE W/ SPECIAL PEANUT SAUCE. **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

SEP 8,13, 15, 20 THU & TUE 9:00AM -5:00PM (4 LESSONS) MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P4,500 INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACK & INGREDIENTS EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN. BY LENI
LESSON 1 FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING TECHNIQUES IN COLORING BORDERS, SHELL ROPE, STAR LEAF, ZIGZAG "E" MOTION FLEUR DE LIZ, MAKE GARLANDS & SWAGS, BASKET WEAVING LATTICE DESIGN, 12 DIFF. DESIGNS FOR TOP & SIDES OF CAKE DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OR ROSE BOUQUET, SWEET PEA CARNATION.
LESSON 2 - 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK & FLORAL WIRE. LEARN SUGAR MOLDING CAKES, FAN BOOTIES, BASKET CRIB, HEART MARY'S HEAD. THE LION KING DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE, 2 ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAYBOX TO TAKE HOME CAKES.
LESSON 3 - MARZIPAN (FREE HAND) MOLDING & PAINTING OF FRUITS FIGURES & VEGETABLES LEARN THE MARZIPPAN ROSE, FIGURE & FRUIT PIPING DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS. FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS. WHICH HOTELS & LUXURY LINERS SERVE.
LESSON 4 - HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANTE / WEDDING CAKES; TIERED, STACKED, ETC. EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN & DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME. PLS. BRING TRAYBOX

SEP 9 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - DELICIOUS RESTAURANT SPECIALTIES YOU WILL LOVE TO DO AT HOME! - GARLIC-ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W/ PEPPER STEAK SAUCE. MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN CUBES SALPICADO. FETTUCINE W/ 3 DIFFERENT SAUCES **PESTO (GARLIC BASIL), BLACK SQUID INK, CREAMY MAYO CHEESE**. HIGHLANDS SALAD W/ OLIVES & BLUE CHEESE DRESINGS. HOT CARAMEL BANANA FUDGE BROWNIE PIE W/ CREAM. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF CENTURY TUNA BURGERS. BEEF BURGERS W/ DIFFERENT DRESSINGS. **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

SEP 10 SAT 2:00 - 6:30PM - MONEY-MAKING BACON & SAUSAGE 4. AMERICAN BACON, CANADIAN BACON, CHORIZO DE BILBAO, GERMAN WHITE FISH SAUSAGE, LONGANIZA ILONGA. INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD. BONUS: MORCILLAS (SPANISH BLOOD SAUSAGE). **P1,200. BY LENI**

SEP 14 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES. MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN). THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS, FETTUCINE ALFRESDO, SPAGHETTI, CARBONARA, BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON, PEACH-FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES. **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

SEP 16 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - SPECIAL LESSON ON MORE MONEY-MAKING OPPORTUNITIES - SAVORY-STYLE FRIED CHICKEN, ROAST MONTEREY PORK LIEMPO, MRS. OLIVIA TEE'S FOOKIEN STYLE AMOY FRESH LUMPIA, PORK SIOMAI W/ QUAIL EGGS. HONGKONG SHRIMP SIOMAI, HACAO (SHRIMP DUMPLING W/ HOMEMADE CLEAR WRAPPER). **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 17 SAT 2:00 - 6:00PM - MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGE 5. ITALIAN SALAMI; PEPPERONI; LIVERWURST (GERMAN LIVER SAUSAGE); THAI HOT SAUSAGE; ILOCOS LONGANIZA; BONUS FRENCH GARLIC SAUSAGE **BY LENI R. ARAULLO (INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD) P1,200.**

SEP 21 WED 2;30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESEROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL W. FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS. BREAD-BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 22 THU 2;30 - 6:00PM ANG SARAP PANGNEGOSYO! 2 VERSIONS OF THE NEWEST, CHEWIEST CHOCO CRINKLES IN MANILA, GIANT MANGO MERINGUE WALNUT TORTE. CLASSIC AMERICAN APPLE PIE. FRENCH STREUSEL APPLE PIE. **P1,200. BY MORELLA**

SEP 23 & 30 FRI 2:00 6:00PM - LEARN TO MAKE, BOTTLE & PRESERVE IN 2 LESSONS! P1,800. MANGO JAM, PINEAPPLE MANGO; APPLESAUCE FOR ROAST TURKEY & PORKLOIN; FRESH ORANGE MARMALADE; GUAVA JAM; UBE; STRAWBERRY; FRESH LEMON CURD MARMALADE **BY LENI**

SEP 24 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - BEST SELLER OVEN-BAKED CHICKEN PIES IN MUFFINCUPS: FLAKY EMPANADA; MELTS-IN-THE-MOUTH MAMON; MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SLICES; PUTO PAO. BONUS RECIPES OF MACAROONS; PUTO FLOUR UBE & TRI-COLORED PUTO **P1,200. BY MORELLA**

SEP 25 SUN 2;30 - 6:00PM - REYNOSO-GALA & ARAULLO KAKANIN! MELTS-IN-THE-MOUTH SPECIAL RICE BIBINGKA; SAPINSAPIN ESPESYAL; DELICIOUS, EASY TO MAKE RICE SUMAN. HOME MADE HOPIA W/ MONGO OR UBE FILLING. BONUS RECIPE: APONG METYANG'S CASSAVA CAKE **P1,500. BY MORELLA**

SEP 26 MON 2:30 - 6:00PM - SOFTEST DOUGHNUTS FOR BUSINESS! - NO OVEN NOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED. INCLUDES CHOCOLATE & MARBLED DOUGHNUTS W/ SEVERAL FILLINGS; ICINGS; DIPS PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF THICK SPANISH CHOCOLATE & CHURROS. **P1,200. BY MORELLA**

SEP 27 TUE 2:30 - 6:00PM - BUSINESS BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! BIG, UNIFORM-SIZEDFROZEN UP TO 6 MONTHS SILVANAS (MINI SANS RIVAL)); BRAZO DE MERCEDES; CLASSIC CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE; MACAPUNO PANDAN CAKE, W/ MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING. **P1,200. BY MORELLA**

SEP 28 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - MONEY-MAKING FAST CART SPECIALTIES BY MORELLA. DELICIOUS CORN DOGS; WAFFLE W/ HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE / CARAMEL; NACHOS 'TOPOTOS' W/ MONTEREY MEAT FILLING & CHEESE DIP; HOMEMADE SHAWARMA WRAP W/ BEEF FILLING & CHEESE DIP. **P1,200.**

SEP 29 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM THE LATEST MONEY-MAKING HOTEL & BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! CHOCO LAVA CAKES (CHOCO CENTERS WILL OOZE OUT).'TARTUFO' (ITALIAN DOME CHOCOLATE COVERED ICE CREAM CAKE W/ CHOCO CAKE BASE. CAN BE FROZEN FOR A MONTH OR LONGER); CREAM PUFFS W/ BAVARIAN & CHOCO FILLING W/ 2 GLAZES: THE YUMMIEST OF NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS **LORRIE REYNOSO'S BAKED CHEESECAKE. P1,200. BY MORELLA**

✓ **VISIT OUR WEBSITES: http://uk.geocities.com/sylviareynosogala & www.sylviareynosogala.com**

ATTENTION! BAGUIO RESIDENTS

Morella Reynoso Gala
VALEDICTORIAN I.H.M.E.S. INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM -1992
STUDIED COOKING AT LE CORDON BLEU LONDON
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AT KHALDI'S CAFE BISTRO at #10 CARIñO ST., (ACROSS PALLADIN HOTEL, BAGUIO)
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PLEASE SEE BAGUIO MIDLAND COURIER SUNDAYS FOR BAGUIO SCHEDULE
RESTAURANT OPENS 6:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT (EXCEPT SUNDAYS)

FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY CLASSES

Argentina · Century TUNA · RICOA BREAKFAST COCOA · Panasonic MICROWAVE OVENS & KITCHEN APPLIANCES · Magnolia Gold Pure & Creamy Butter · Magnolia FRESH CHICKEN · MONTEREY Quality Meats · Hunt's Paste · Hunt's Sauce · Hunt's Ketchup

EGGPLANT a la Bistek

Eggplants for these hard times

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

By Alfonso Vergara

THREE generations have cooked this dish in my family. My mother, Ponciana Guevarra Vergara, who first cooked and served this dish, handed it down to me and I have in turn handed it down to my son Ericson.

We usually cook Eggplant a la Bistek for lunch and/or dinner on days when our budget is lean.

It's special to the family because it's cheap (P20); easy and quick to cook (five to 10 minutes) and can be served as main dish or as side dish to fried fish, chicken, pork or beef.

Eggplant a la Bistek

3-4 pcs or ½ k long/round eggplants
1 pc big, white onion, sliced into rings
5 tbsp soy sauce
1 tsp sugar
3-4 slivers garlic, minced/or finely chopped
2-3 pcs *calamansi* , juiced and seeded
3-5 tbsp cooking oil

Extract juice from calamansi. Set aside. Mince or finely chop garlic. Slice onion into rings. Set aside into half-portions.

Cut eggplant into halves; then into diagonals or, if round variety, into eight wedges. Heat oil until smoking. Add garlic and half onion rings until light brown.

Add sliced eggplant, cook and stir continuously until wilted for three to five minutes. Cover for a minute to sweat. Sprinkle sugar, stir and cook for one more minute. Transfer to a platter or wide-mouth bowl. Top or garnish with remaining half portion onion rings.

Serve hot as main dish or as side dish to fried fish, poultry or meat.

Editor's note: Mr. Vergara may claim his Imarflex gift from Hazel Soriaga of our Marketing Department, PDI office.

TV show on 'creative life'

THE CASTLE of Baking and Confectionery Arts (CBCA) presents the ABC Life (Chef Annie's Bountiful Creative Life) 1-2 p.m. every Sunday on ABC 5.

The program is also viewed in the United States (Pacific, 9 a.m., Sundays; New York, 12 noon, Sundays), Canada and Japan through the Mabuhay Channel.

Chef Annie's Bountiful Creative Life features educational and entertaining segments like baking cakes, pies, breads, etc.; no-bake treats for those with no ovens, jellies, cheesecakes, bombes, molds, candies, etc.; sugar-free treats for dieters, health-conscious people and diabetics; hobbies and crafts; health, leisure and sports; texting contests where viewers can win instructional DVDs, books, gift checks and other prizes.

Special feature segments include ingredient of the day, culinary terms, dining etiquette, personality development, home management, restaurant visits, success stories, events, etc.

The television program also touches on such topics as table skirting and setting for formal affairs, napkin folding, flower arrangements, landscaping, bonsai, fruit and vegetable carving, environmental care, proper waste disposal and garbage management, skills and livelihood projects, etc.

On Aug. 27, Lim will launch her series of instructional DVDs and books on Culinary Arts and Skills 3-6 p.m. at National Bookstore, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. There will be cooking demonstrations, raffles and cocktails.

Caterer offers special rates

CARVED glazed ham

CELEBRATE life's greatest moments with the Swan at a special price of only P250 per person until September.

The 40-year-old catering company features recipes developed by its founder, Nena Cruz Jacinto. Its international menu consists of Filipino, Spanish and Mediterranean dishes.

The Swan has a restaurant in Palacio Grande in Intramuros, a few meters from the Manila Cathedral.

Call 4130824/25, 415 7926 or 5280286 or e-mail sales@swancatering.com.ph

LUMPIANG Ubod

Grandpa's WWII 'recipe for survival'

From page D1

Pinaputok na Manok sa Kawayan

1 whole chicken (small)
Salt
Tamarind leaves
Lemongrass
Garlic
Onion
2 c *buko* juice

Cooking utensil:
1 ft freshly cut bamboo (1 node)

Sprinkle/season chicken with salt.

Combine tamarind leaves, lemongrass, chopped garlic and onion and stuff into the chicken.

Make an opening on the freshly cut bamboo just enough for chicken to fit.

After putting the stuffed chicken in the bamboo, pour in the *buko* juice.

Put back the cut portion of the bamboo and tie the parts together with wire. Cook in an open fire until done.

Remove the chicken and put on a platter/bowl. Cut and serve.

Editor's note: Mr. Cepe may claim P2000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks from Hazel Soriaga of our Marketing Department, PDI office.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

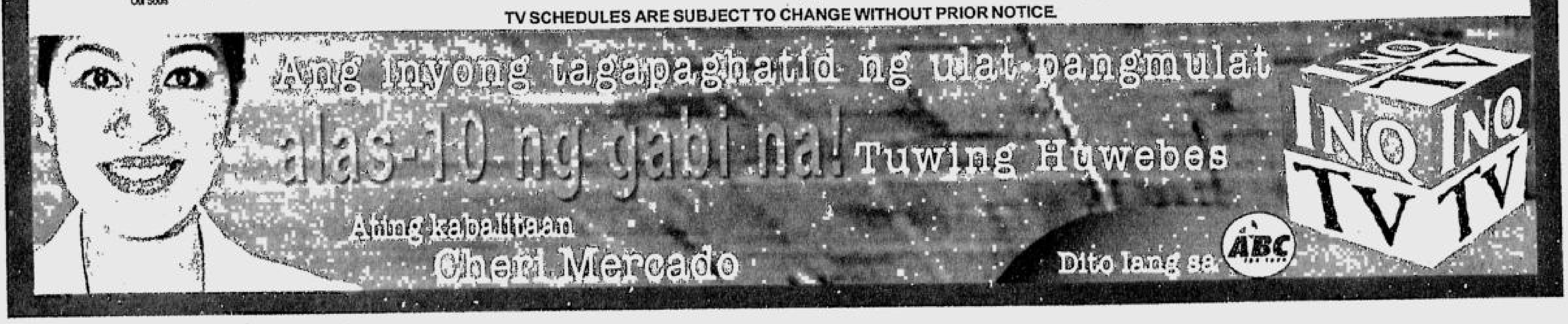
TV GUIDE

Laura Jea
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)						Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose		Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championship				Sentro	Jones Cup					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf: Senior PGA Championships	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Dateline Specials		The Grid		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Nuts	Outrageous	The Scene	King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		Now Life TV Shop		Now Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superline Tv Shopping		Shepherds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams							TRL										MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Tala 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		I'd do anything		LPGA Golf				Goals!	Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Sportscenter Asia			Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports				TV Shopping		GWS	Swatch Fivb Women's Final GSTAAD			NBA XL	In This Corner		Sports Desk	Davis Cup 2nd Round '05 Finals Day3				2005 EBC	
Sports Plus						Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld	Tour De France	Nascar GFS Marketplace 400 Michigan							
Cinemax			Seconds				Trucks			Fire Down Below (7:15 PM)				ATF			Secretary		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Strong Medicine		Back When We Were Grown Ups			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery				Evolver	One Step Beyond							Power Zone	
National Geographic				Marine Machines					Haydon Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia							
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon		Rugrats															The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends		Growing Up Gotti	Rock Star	Arrested Development				
AXN		CSI Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Worst Case Scenario		Lost					
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	WWE: Great American Bash				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Mack The Knife (3:40 PM)				Back To The Future (5:40 PM)				Soccer Dog: European Cup (7:35 PM)			Congo			Once Upon A Time In Mexico (10:45PM)		
Star Movies			Veronica Guerin (3:45PM)				The Distinguished Gentleman				Bridget Jones's Diary (7:20 PM)			Seabiscuit					Picture Perfect (11:20PM)
Cinema One		Abel Morado				Forever My love				Trip				Once Upon A Time				American Adobo	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

MARINATED Lapu-Lapu with Tomato California Raisin Compote, Ginger Crackling and Ruby Grapefruit Dressing

PAN-FRIED Duck Liver and California Raisins, Mushroom Soup Cappuccino, Balsamic Reduction and Focaccia Crisp

Put a touch of sunshine in your food

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

RAISINS are nutritious and delicious snacks. But, as most chefs know, they also make a fantastic addition to many of our favorite recipes.

Raisins make baked goodies even better. They add a touch of sunshine to breads, muffins, cookies, cakes, pies, tarts and puddings. You can also sprinkle raisins over salads and hors d'oeuvres for a different texture and taste.

Raisins are a great addition to a variety of dishes. They add a piquant flavor to beef, chicken, pork, ham, lamb and even veal. You can give an international flavor for your favorite sauces by putting some raisins.

A handful of raisins and nuts in hot rice gives you a delicious rice pilaf.

"Raisins are naturally versatile," said Richard Lieu, trade promotions director for California Raisins. "They easily blend with just about any dish."

'Raisin' the Roof'

To celebrate the versatility and appeal of raisins, the California Raisin Administrative Committee (CRAC) and the United States Agricultural Trade Office held a cookout at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel recently to demonstrate the endless culinary possibilities of raisins.

Presented by executive chef Christopher Romine and his staff—chefs Virgilio Timola, John Mark Borlagdan and Werner Schanzl—the group prepared various treats from hot and cold appetizer, to main course and dessert, using California raisins.

Lunch began with marinated baby *lapu-lapu* with tomato California raisin compote with ruby grapefruit dressing. For hot appetizer, the chefs brought in a sumptuous plate of pan-fried duck liver and California raisins with a cup of creamy mushroom soup cappuccino and focaccia crisp.

Main entrée was sweet ginger-glazed rack of lamb with California raisins ratatouille, fork-smashed potato and star anise-flavored jus.

The dessert that capped the meal was a homage to raisins—yellow California raisin samosa with spiced Asian pear soup.

The cookout was part of CRAC's efforts to promote raisins the world over. CRAC has been conducting seminars, recipe development contests and menu development for many years to conquer new markets for its raisins. Its marketing efforts appear to have won over many bakeries, restaurants and fine dining establishments around the world.

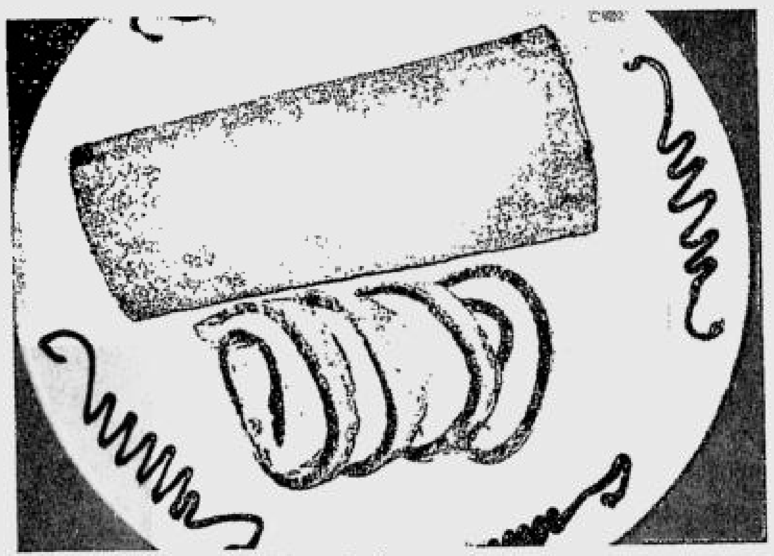
But, Lieu pointed out that raisins did not just improve taste and flavor of dishes, but were also healthy and nutritious.

"California raisins are nature's original candy," he said. "They're also among the world's most nutritious dried fruits. The sweet, tasty raisins are cholesterol-free, low in sodium and virtually fat-free. They add many necessary vitamins and minerals to the diet, including iron and potassium."

Lieu added, that 36 percent of raisin's 70 percent sugar was pure fructose, a natural form of sugar that was easily digested to provide quick energy.

CALIFORNIA Raisins and Blue Ginger-Glazed Rack of Lamb, Asian Ratatouille, Fork-Smashed Potato and Star Anise-Flavored Jus

PROMOTING the versatility of raisins: Dennis Voboril, director of United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Trade Office; Richard Lieu, California Raisins director for trade promotions; and Christopher Romine, executive chef of Makati Shangri-La Hotel



CHOCOLATE Swiss Roll from Dads

KAMAYAN'S Chicken Tsikiting, Sinigang na Ulo sa Miso, Pansit Luglog

World's flavors in one roof

TRIPLE V offers an international spread of dishes from different parts of the globe.

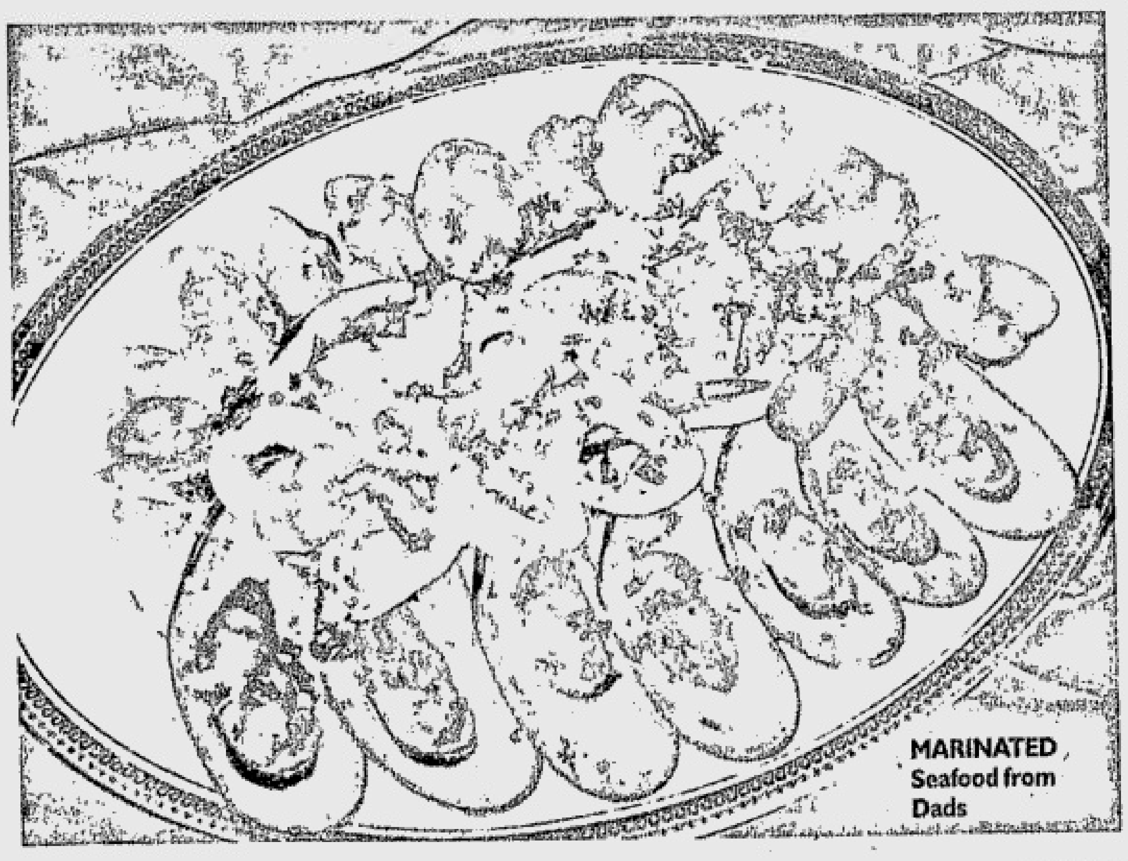
Three popular buffets are available all under one roof, from Japanese to continental to Filipino favorites.

Dad's Ultimate Buffet offers transcontinental fare including roast beef, turkey, ham, salmon, *paella*, *callos* and pasta, plus classic dishes.

Saisaki gives diners a different side of Japanese cuisine with "Niku and Toppings Buffet" that showcases the formerly centuries-old secret cooking techniques for beef.

Kamayan's "Tanging Sarap Buffet" takes pride in the comforting familiarity of Philippine cooking and its unique connection to home and family. Relish rich *fiesta* fare and treasured family recipes from the first and original Filipino restaurant, Kamayan.

Dads Ultimate Buffet is priced at P525 and at P425 on promo days in all branches: SM Megamall, Glorietta III, Alabang Town Center, Edsa and Padre Faura. Call 5317292 or 5316101.



MARINATED Seafood from Dads

Learn baking with pre-mixes

THE MAYA Kitchen is offering "Baking with Pre-mixes" class, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Aug. 27.

It will cover Decadence Cake with Caramel Syrup, Black Forest Brownie, Crema de Fruta, Food for the Gods, Scramble Bars and Banana Walnut Muffins. Students can get P50 off on tuition if they buy any three of Maya premixes.

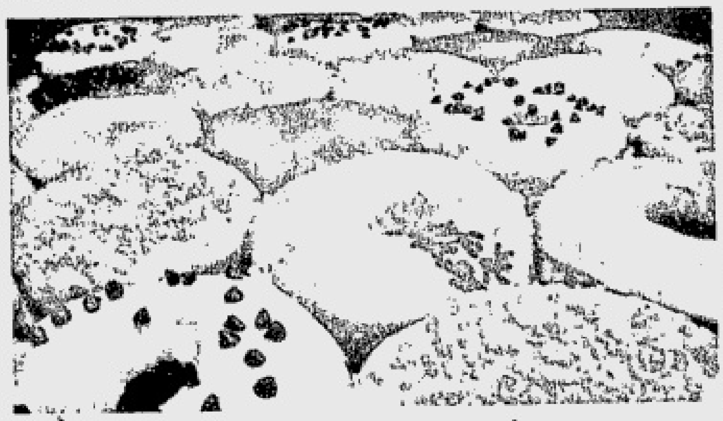
The class "Japanese Cooking" will be conducted 2:30-5:30 p.m., Sept. 3, and will include Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, assorted nigri and sushi. Enrollees get a free Japanese cookbook.

The fundamental will be taught in "Basic Cooking," 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 30-Sept. 2. The course will cover proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades; use of herbs and spices combinations; proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Free Mix & Match cookbooks will be given away.

Bread-making will be covered in "Basic Baking," 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 6-9. Learn how to make different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. Students get free cookbook.

Maya Kitchen also has Recipe Research and Product Development, Food and Beverage Consultancy and Staff Training, Provincial Demonstration and On-the-Job Training.

Call Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. Or send e-mail to mkitchen@ultilmate.info.com.ph.



A donut invasion

HOT Loops, which is beginning to make a name among donut lovers, is now in Robinsons Supermarkets everywhere. It is available in different flavors like Choco-Lickety, Strawberry Good, Glazy Days, Peanut Better, Bavarian Dream, Hazy Berry, Caramelt-in-your-Mouth, Choco-Caramel Crunch, Choco-Nutty Rush, White Choco Fantasy and Javalicious.

A holiday getaway for two.

The BMW Z4. Spirited arrival.

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Sheer Driving Pleasure

Yours to enjoy at 0% interest in 2 equal payments.

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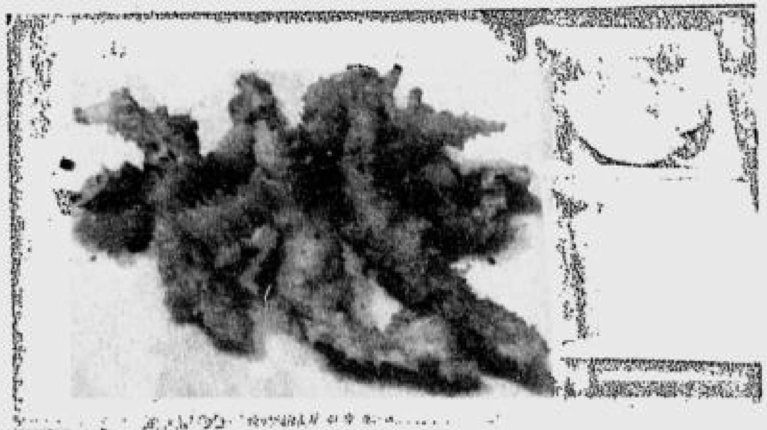
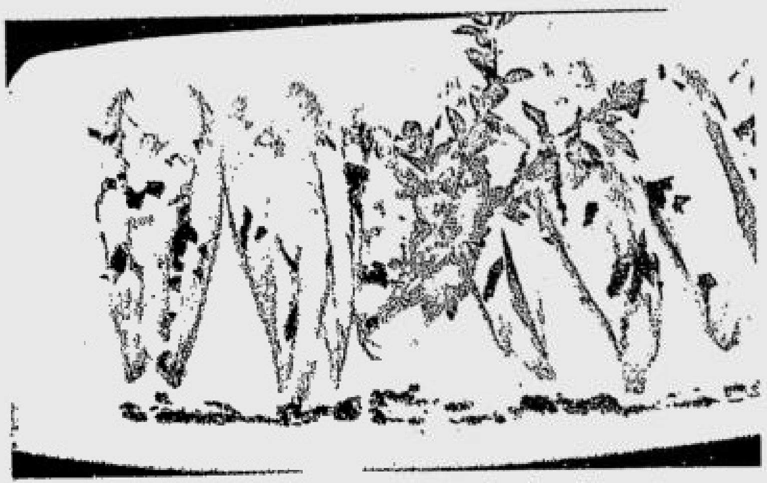
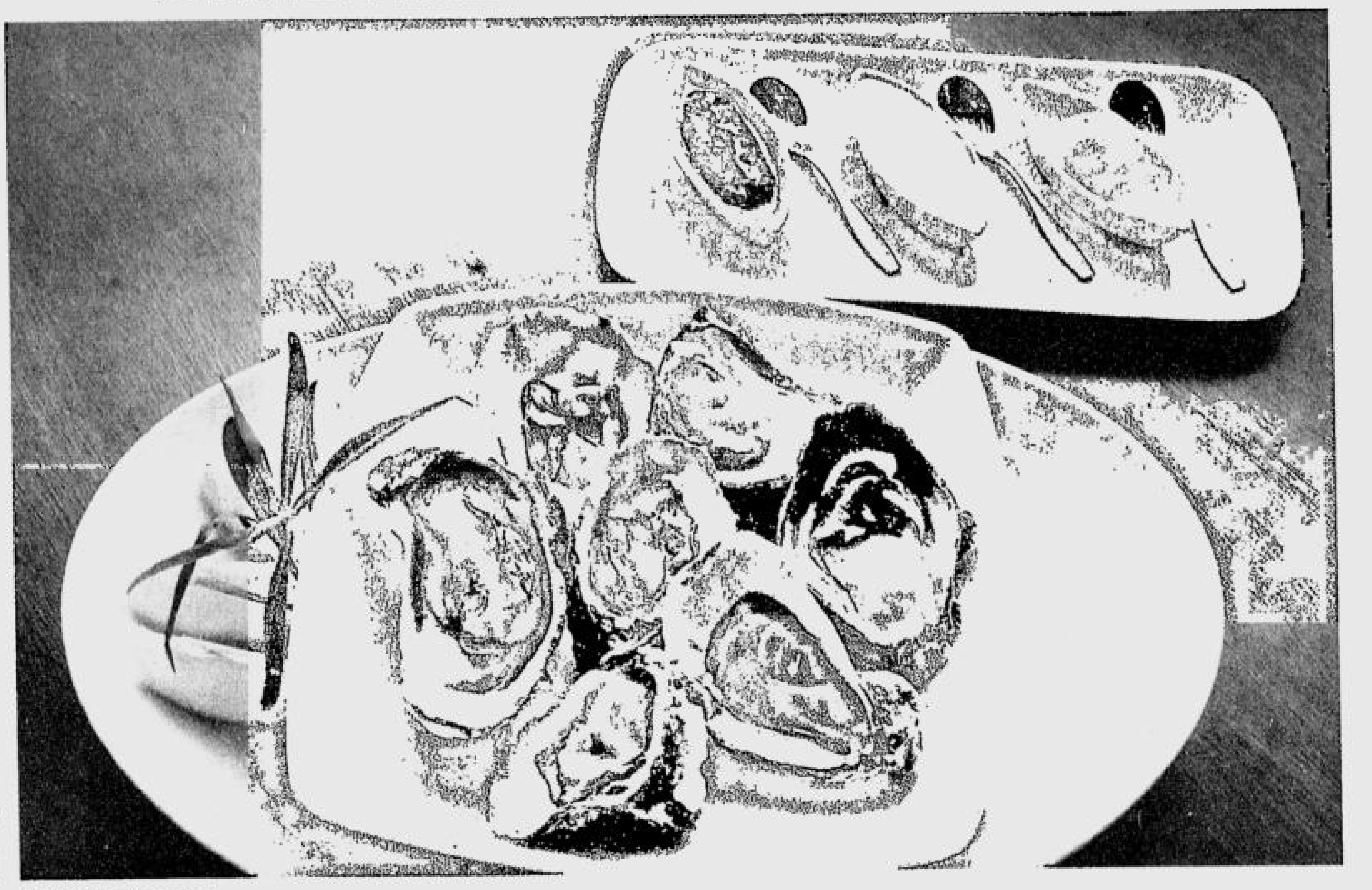


DIWAL Fritters. A testament to Gaita Fores' creativity is the "*diwal* fondue."



LE DIWAL. *Diwal* goes to Paris with truffle oil and truffle paste.



FRESH Capiz oysters

Seafood seduction

It's high time we appreciate fish and shellfish outside of 'bangus,' 'lapu-lapu' and 'tahong,' and the place to do it is Pepato

Text by Margaux Salcedo
Contributor
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

IN THE LATE 1990s, Margarita "Gaita" Fores, by means of Cibo—that silver-plated casual dining Italian restaurant now in most malls—did for Italian cooking what Starbucks has done for coffee. A culture that had understood pasta to mean just spaghetti was suddenly educated on varieties of noodles and sauces. It was a revolution in the Philippine restaurant industry, and an Italian dinner for the Filipino yuppie never meant just spaghetti and meatballs ever again.

A decade later, Fores leads another culinary revolution. Inspired by a trip to Roxas City at the invitation of Mayor Tony del Rosario where she attended the first ever Diwal Harvest Festival, she is seducing the public to fall in love, as she did, with treasures from our own seas.

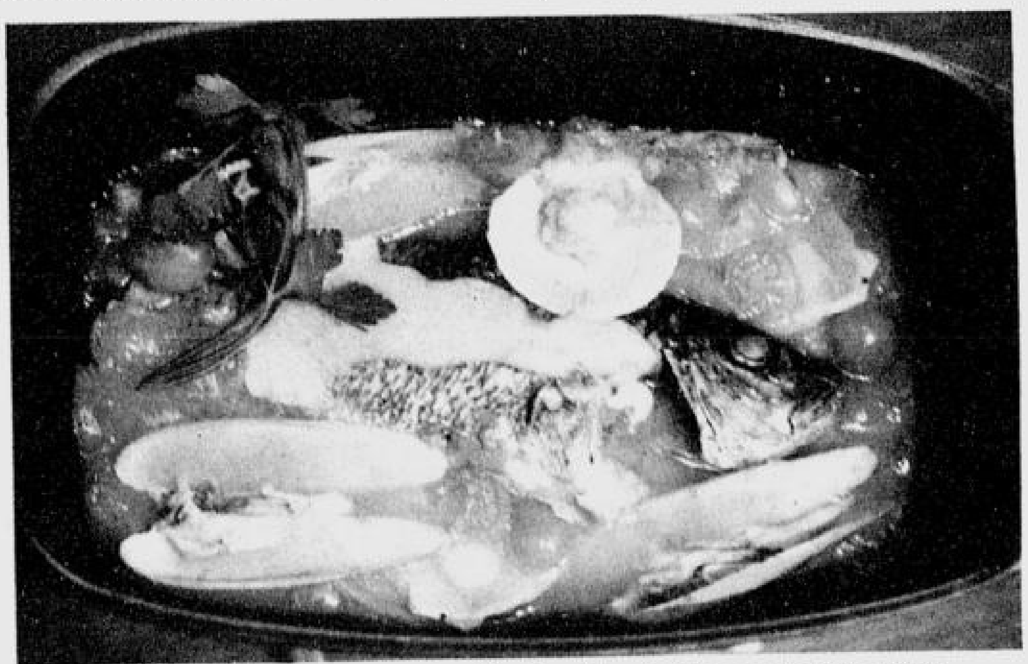
The falling in love will take place at Pepato, the upscale dining haven this culinary genius uses as her showroom (patrons include the famous chef Mario Batali, who considers it the only restaurant he would visit in the Philippines).

"This is where I allow myself to be more daring," says this hands-on restaurateur. "People have the misconception that Pepato serves only Italian cuisine, but we have a greater variety of dishes."

A chef of limitless creativity, Fores owes part of her success to her policy of serving only the best—not just the best available, but the best in the world. Pepato has tomatoes flown in from Italy, meat flown in from Australia, other ingredients from the Middle East, etc.

The Fores success is also partly due to a cultured tongue that can distinguish the good from the best. And this cultured tongue is what has determined that we must appreciate and promote our own aquatic treasures, which in fact are hunted by the most discriminating chefs in other parts of the world. In fact, Fores says, in an episode of "Iron Chef America" that she was privileged to watch live in New York (thanks to Mario Batali who gave her a studio pass), among the secret ingredients of one of the competitors was *tilapia*.

GOOD things come in little packages. Capiz scallops are tiny but tasty!



APAHAP (Filipino Sea Bass) Bouillabaisse. The finer things in life in your own backyard

LINGUINI Diwal—Diwalicious pasta

Treats from the blue

Fores says it's high time we appreciate fish and shellfish outside of *bangus*, *lapu-lapu* and *tahong*. So she has created Pepato's "Regali dal Mare," literally "treat from the sea," a celebration of exquisite cuisine using native seafood.

Not one to be content with serving food simply grilled or cooked as usual (although you may request to have them served as such), Fores does what a three-star restaurant in Manhattan would: After preserving freshness to the utmost possible (she even purchased aerators to contain the just-flown-in *diwal*), she cooks them in variations that bring their textures and flavors to even greater heights. For instance, although the *diwal* may be served simply grilled, as they enjoy it in Capiz, Pepato has introduced an amazing *bagna cauda* dip, creating what may be called a *diwal* fondue!

You may also opt to have the *diwal* with butter and truffle oil, a dish that is very rich. A healthy alternative is to order the bouillabaisse, a dish Fores has perfected, the soup's flavors strong but not overpowering. The stew contains the *diwal*, *apahap* and Capiz scallops (smaller and tastier than ordinary scallops—you must also try them with butter as an appetizer!).

If you order fish, be prepared to wait another 25 minutes because fish is cooked only upon ordering (allowing enough time for you to enjoy the *diwal* as a hot starter).

The selection includes the *apahap* or Philippine sea bass, the *mangagat* or the red snapper, and the *pampano*, the Philippines' most heralded fish, high in demand among food connoisseurs across the globe. The 25 minutes produce for you either the bouillabaisse described earlier, an *acqua pazza* or seafood casserole, an *al sale* or fish roast, or a *cartoccio* (a baked concoction that is served in parchment paper—most intriguing!).

Originally a menu for a short seafood festival, the spread has decided to stay. Of course, availability will depend on the season (the *diwal* will be available only until October, by choice of Mother Nature). But as long as the seafood can be flown in, they will be served.

After four years of banned harvesting because it was almost extinct, it is a delight to have the Angel Wings back. Harvested today only in the province of Capiz, it is a very rare commodity, and Pepato has taken great pains to bring us this rare treat.

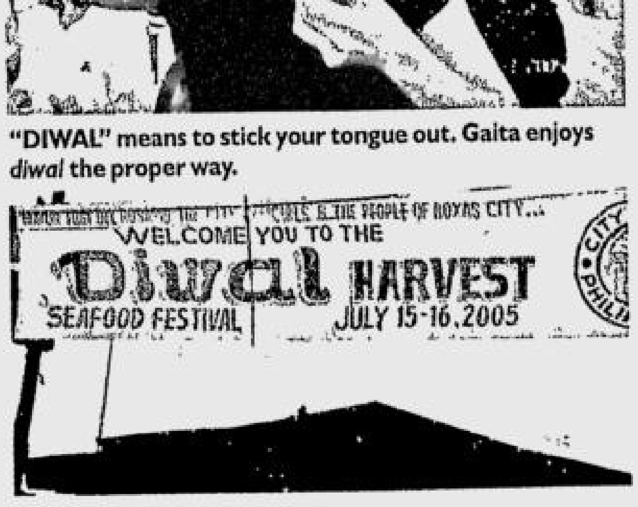
Pepato's sinful spread is a delightful cultural and educational experience. You will leave definitely satisfied but, more importantly, enlightened. Seafoods will never mean just *bangus* and *lapu-lapu* ever again!

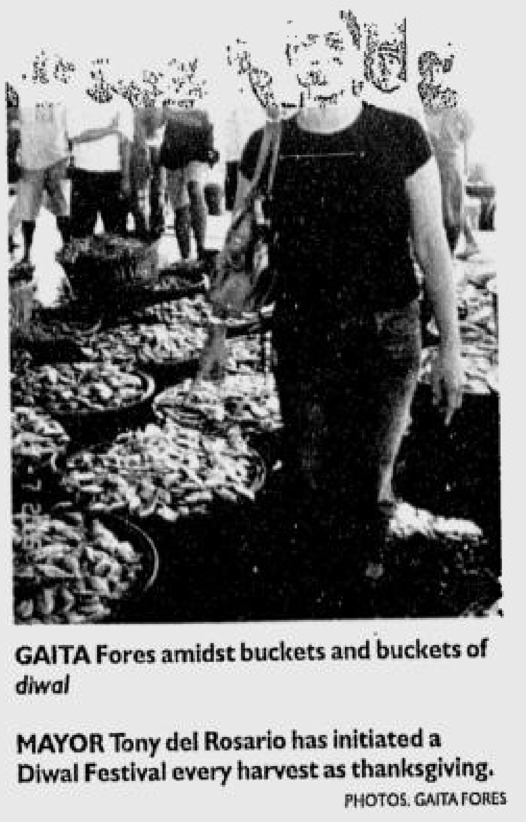
Pepato is in Greenbelt 2 (tel. 7572636).

Visit smilingfilipino.blogspot.com.

THE REBIRTH of Diwal. Now Roxas City can harvest up to eight tons of *diwal* a day.

"DIWAL" means to stick your tongue out. Gaita enjoys *diwal* the proper way.





GAITA Fores amidst buckets and buckets of *diwal*

MAYOR Tony del Rosario has initiated a Diwal Festival every harvest as thanksgiving.

PHOTOS, GAITA FORES